





## State schools centre will publicise successes

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers launched their most determined counter attack today on critics of state schools. The two headteachers' associations announced plans for an information centre for state schools, hoping to emulate the success enjoyed by a parallel service for the independent sector.

Acting independently of government as a non-profit making company, the centre is intended to publicise the achievement of state schools and counter the impression that standards are falling. As well as analysing performance, it will advise heads on promoting their schools.

John Dunford, head of Durham Johnston Comprehensive, whose lobbying brought the project to fruition, said: "For too long the state system, and the comprehensives in particular, have been media whipping boys. Every survey or report on education is given a negative slant. Opinion surveys show that 90 per cent of parents are satisfied with state schools but that is not the impression you get in the press. It is about time some of the good things were put across."

The two associations are raising £50,000 to launch the initiative with a chief executive and offices in London. They hope that most state schools will later pay a small annual subscription to meet the centre's costs.

The initiative was inspired by the success of the Independent Schools Information Service. Tim Devlin, the first director of ISIS, said: "When the service was set up in 1972, it countered the then prevailing attitude that private schools were anachronistic. The media only talked of top-hatted toffs getting up to larks, not new science labs and modern developments. ISIS helped to change that and caught something of a new wave. I feel the centre can do that as well."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, called for heads to become chief executives with overall responsibility for the management of their schools. They would be accountable to a board of governors, similar to those in business and industry.

"The board of governors, having appointed a chief executive and provided the necessary framework in terms of policy and budget, should then expect the person appointed to get on with the task," Mr Hart told the association's secondary schools conference in Cardiff. "Governors should, as far as possible, avoid becoming involved themselves in the detail of the school's management."

Cardinal Hume said that he had nothing but praise and admiration for the dedication and professionalism of the headteachers he had met.



Instincts sharpened: a Bristol estate agent learns how to defend herself in a training session with Constable Chris Nott, of Redland police station, in the city. Prompted by the kidnapping of Stephanie Slater in January, the Avon and Somerset police are instructing 13

local women estate agents in self-defence (Rachel Kelly writes). The woman who suggested the self-defence course to Black Horse Agencies said: "The lessons should be done by everybody. They made me think how I would react in a crisis. Everybody reacts differently. The

courses, which take place in an empty house, concentrate on making the women more aware but are tailored to the pressures of the profession. They point to the need, for example, to note the means of escape in a house and to use the women's own natural reactions. If

a woman is a natural runner, the police will teach her to take advantage of that. If she is a natural hitter, her skills would be developed. The training also emphasizes the dangers inherent in going round a strange house. Richard Harding, area director for Black

Horse, said: "We are very much aware of the dangers our job can entail. There is no golden rule, but if a girl gets a bad feeling about somebody who does not look her in the eye or seems shifty, the police tell her to follow her instincts and make sure she doesn't go alone."

## Executive role urged for heads

HEAD teachers demanded government action yesterday to clarify their relationship with school governors in the light of the long running dispute at Stratford School, east London (John O'Leary writes).

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## Father murdered by UVF gunman

By EDWARD GORMAN IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) claimed responsibility for the murder of a Roman Catholic father of three, shot dead at his home in Portadown, County Armagh, yesterday.

The UVF, in a statement to a local radio station, claimed that its victim, Terry McConville, aged 43, was a known IRA member. This was denied by his family and by residents who believed that Mr. McConville had been shot in retaliation for an IRA mortar attack on a police car in Newry on Friday night, in which a policeman was killed and a colleague injured.

According to police and local reports, a masked gunman burst into Mr. McConville's home in Portadown, at about 3.30am. After first going into the bedroom of one of his daughters, the gunman went into the main bedroom where he shot

Mr. McConville. A close friend of the victim said Mr. McConville, who worked at Craigavon Hospital and played drums in a local dance band, had no interest in politics or religion. "The man was neither Protestant nor Catholic. He had a heart for living, and playing in a band and looking after his family," he said. Mr. McConville's widow and daughters issued a statement calling for no retaliation for his murder.

The policeman injured in the mortar attack was still seriously ill yesterday, after losing both legs in the blast. The policeman killed was Colleen McMurray, aged 34, whose husband is also a police officer. The RUC described her as a fine, caring officer. She is the sixth policeman to have been killed in the troubles this year and the fourth in Newry. The total death toll so far is 38, 11 but one were civilians.

## Mosque is split by struggle for power

By CRAIG SETON

A BITTER conflict has divided the Muslim leadership of one of Britain's largest mosques and led to its chairman of 17 years being ousted by rivals.

Dr Mohammad Naseem, chairman of the council of management of Birmingham's central mosque since 1975, was voted out of office at an annual meeting last month after allegations that he failed to consult colleagues and complaints over his leadership style. The 67-year-old family doctor from Handsworth, Birmingham, claims that the meeting was unconstitutional and intends to take legal action to regain his position. In the meantime, the locks on the mosque's offices have been changed and on one occasion the police were called during the dispute between the new officials and Dr Naseem and his supporters.

Dr Naseem's rivals among the 21-member management council and a wider body of 60 trustees say that he had an autocratic style and that feelings intensified over his leadership during discussions about plans to develop land alongside the mosque and claims that money had been wasted on costs. Yesterday Dr Naseem denied that he was dictatorial. He said: "As far as I am concerned I am still the chairman until the matter is decided by the courts."

Fazlun Khalid, aged 60, a management consultant, is the new secretary of the management council. He said yesterday: "This is basically about the management style of an individual. One of the basic principles about doing things in the Islamic community is consultation. The entire community must be consulted and that was not happening."

He said that an annual meeting had not been held for 18 months. Neutral trustees concerned about the delay had taken legal advice before calling an agm that elected new members and officials. He added: "As far as we are concerned it is a fait accompli. We are in control of the mosque. Dr Naseem is still a member of the council and he is welcome to turn up."

## Charity cash used 'to prop up NHS'

By JEREMY LAURANCE HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of pounds raised in charitable appeals by the NHS are being used to prop up inefficient services and promote unfair competition, according to a new study.

In London alone, appeals totalling more than £100 million are underway at half a dozen of the best known hospitals, including Guy's, St Thomas's, the Hammer-smith, the Royal Marsden and King's College. Many are using their charitable income to subsidise services so that they can undercut rivals by charging a lower price or make a larger surplus, the study says.

"A hospital could achieve success in the internal market not because its services were particularly efficient, or of good quality, but because it had a large charitable income," the study says. Total charitable income to the NHS is estimated at £370 million a year, only 1 per cent of the total NHS budget. But the money is unevenly distributed with some hospitals in wealthy areas receiving mil-

lions of pounds. Guy's, St Bartholomew's and St Thomas's each have trust funds worth over £50 million.

The study says that the role of charity in the NHS has altered fundamentally. Charitable money is no longer reserved for buying extra facilities or developing new treatments but is now used for "core services", including building and equipping new hospitals. It says the growth in fund raising "may tempt the Exchequer to cut back accordingly when allocating public funds to the NHS".

In some cases charitable money is being used to shore up inefficiency. "Hospital-based research units who have found it hard to win research grants... have launched major appeals to boost their income from charity," Health authorities have been permitted to raise funds direct from the public only since 1980. There are now 2,300 appeals registered with the Charity Commission. The study says NHS trusts see charitable fund raising as "a relatively easy way of generating extra income".

## Teenager killed in stolen car

A teenager was killed at the weekend when he lost control of a sports car he had just stolen from outside a night club.

Matthew Pennick, aged 19, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was killed instantly when the Ford Escort XR3 Turbo hit a tree as it rounded a tight bend at high speed. The accident happened on the road from Halifax to Huddersfield late on Saturday night.

Police confirmed yesterday that the car had been stolen and appealed for witnesses.

## Last broadcast

A 67-year-old radio transmitter which broadcast the BBC's first national programme, in the 1920s, shut down yesterday. The Davenry Transmitting Station at Borough Hill, Northamptonshire, beamed its last radio signals to southern Europe and Africa. During the last phase of its life the station was transmitting World Service programmes on short wave.

## Gulf widens

The gap between the poor and better-off widened in the 1980s, with income in the top fifth of households rising by almost £8,000 at 1989 prices to £28,124. The income of the poorest fifth fell by £160 to £3,282 over the same period, the Low Pay Unit has reported. A couple with two children on half average earnings now pays £9 a week more in direct tax, excluding VAT and poll tax, than in 1979.

## Murder charge

A prisoner has been charged with murdering a fellow inmate at Wayland prison, Norfolk. The dead man, Victor Osborne, aged 46, from London, who was serving six years for possessing drugs, was stabbed in the jail on Saturday night, police said. He was taken to hospital in Norwich but died later. A man will appear before magistrates at Thetford today charged with murder.

## Civil War show takes to the road

AN exhibition sponsored by The Times to mark the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War may revive ancient rivalries between the towns of Nottingham and Newark (Robin Young writes). The exhibition, the first travelling display to be mounted in Britain by the Royal Armouries, England's oldest museum, will open at the Castle Museum in Nottingham on August 2.

While Nottingham was on the side of the parliamentarians, Newark, commanding the other strategic bridge over the Trent, was steadfastly for the king.

The exhibition will first be seen at the Town Docks Museum, Hull, from April 11 to May 31; then June 6 to July 26, Whitefriars Museum, Coventry; August 2 to September 20, Castle Museum, Nottingham; September 26 to January 3 1993, Foregate Museum, Worcester; January 9 to March 28 1993, Corinium Museum, Cirencester.

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## Dons defend Cambridge

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE dons were yesterday disputing suggestions that they had slipped behind their greatest rivals, at Oxford. A book by two neutral academics gives Oxford a clear edge in a comparison of the two universities. The study will provide the most detailed judgment for nearly 30 years of their strengths.

Brian Salter, of Kent University, and Edward Tapper, of Sussex University, have been working on the project for five years. The two political scientists have tried to assess the degree to which Oxford and Cambridge have adapted to changes in the university system, and which has had closer links with industry, new management methods, and less reliance on public funds.

Their book, *Oxford, Cambridge and the Changing*

*Idea of the University*, to be published in May, will show the universities outshining the rest in most areas. But Oxford emerges on top in various indicators.

Both have top ratings for research in most subjects. The book makes no judgment on teaching quality but says Cambridge is behind Oxford on the value of its research grants and the proportion of income from private sources.

Cambridge is reluctant to comment until it has seen the research but does not accept that Oxford has superiority. The book credits Oxford with a more successful fund-raising campaign, for example, but Cambridge argues that the inclusion of research income exaggerates the gap between two campaigns of different duration.

Sir Richard Southwood,

Oxford's vice-chancellor, has said that the differences between the two universities are marginal. He gave warning last year that Oxford's superiority in its traditional strongholds of the arts and social sciences was under threat.

Dr Salter and Dr Tapper credit Oxford with more success than Cambridge in modernising administration. Both are wrestling with the difficulties of split responsibilities and loyalties between colleges and the university.

Other universities were keeping out of the dispute, although some felt that they had superior claims to modernity. None expected to compete with Oxford and Cambridge on such indicators as the scale of research grants or private funding.

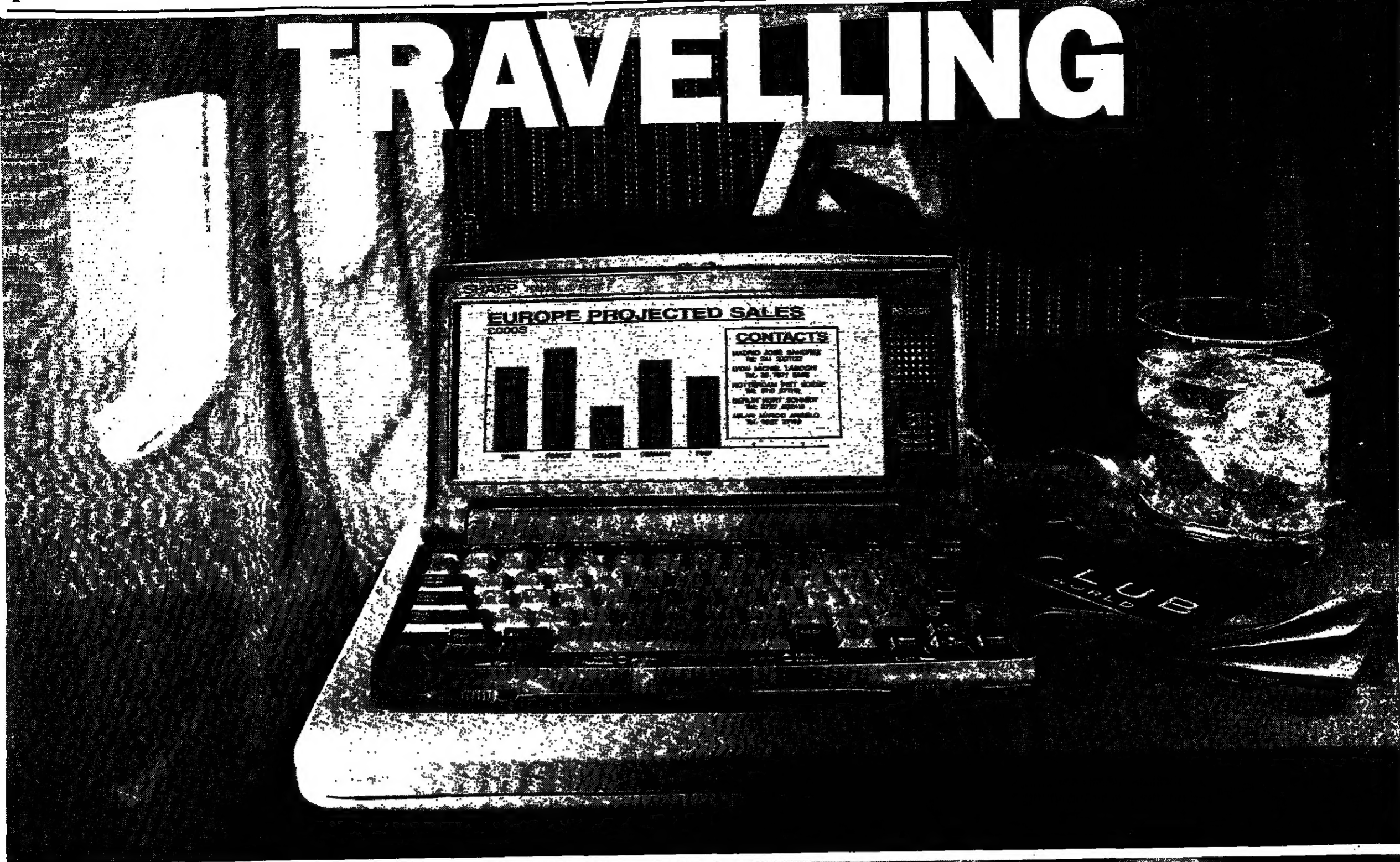
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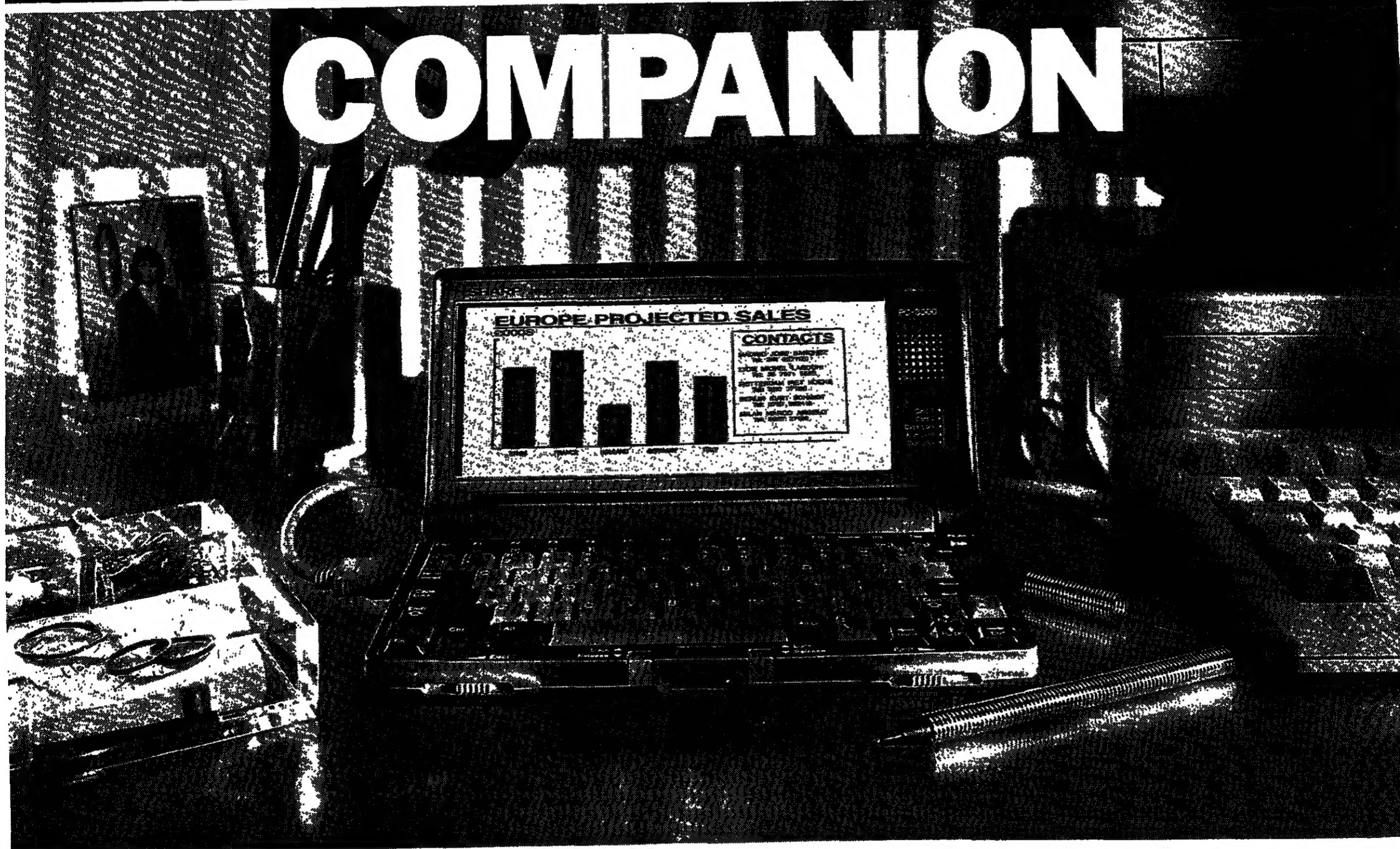




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## London 'will be swamped by refugees in five years'

By Douglas Broom  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

CENTRAL London boroughs are in danger of being overwhelmed by refugees in the next five years, the leader of Westminster City Council said yesterday. David Weeks, one of the most senior council members, said that without additional government help, central London boroughs could not cope with hundreds of asylum seekers and growing homelessness.

"In Westminster we are under pressure anyway in coping with the homeless even before we start to think about helping refugees," Mr Weeks said. "It cannot be possible for the Home Office to say that these people can come into this country and then for the government to refuse to help to pay for the cost of housing them."

"The situation creates conflict between the needs of people with genuine local connections and those who turn up on our doorstep simply because we are the centre of the capital city of the country where they have been granted asylum."

By Wednesday Westminster expects to have accepted 280 refugee families as officially homeless this year, almost a third of the total number it will acknowledge a duty to house. Most come from Zaire (74 families) and Angola (27), although council officials report a growing stream of asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa.

Mr Weeks said: "As well as housing, the refugees have a severe impact on our schools, where already four out of ten children do not speak English as their first language. Some of our schools get turned into educational casualty wards."

He was worried that without help to assimilate them, the growing number of asylum-seekers might provoke a similar response to that in Paris, where the far right is on the rise.

In the 12 months ending March 1991, 1,052 of Westminster's 18,000 council flats fell vacant and there were 389 housing association flats to which it had the right to nominate tenants. In spite of having 5,700 people on its waiting list, the council offered 830 of the flats and houses to homeless families.

Hillingdon, the London borough which includes Heathrow airport, faces the problem of unaccompanied child refugees flying in. Since January 1990 the borough has dealt with 73 and has 35 youngsters, aged between nine and 17 years, in its care, comprising 25 Eritreans, four Ugandans, three Ethiopians and three Angolans. One of the borough's community homes has been reopened to house 15 Eritrean children and is staffed by Eritreans.

Providing homes and care for refugee children will cost the borough an estimated £1 million in the present financial year, the equivalent of £5 a head on the poll tax.



Weeks: boroughs 'not able to cope'



Jump start: Betty Chaffis and Muriel Lamb climbing into a 1950 competition Skoda yesterday for a driving contest at Brooklands motor museum, Weybridge, Surrey. The event was part of a national rally featuring new and old models of the Czechoslovak-made car

## CAA accused of failing over safety moves

Some air safety suggestions made six years ago have still not been implemented, according to critics of the Civil Aviation Authority. Harvey Elliott reports

THE Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will face a barrage of criticism today for allegedly dragging its feet over the introduction of new safety measures in passenger aircraft. Survivors from two of Britain's worst air disasters — at Manchester and Kegworth — will tell a meeting of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety in London that little has been done to implement recommendations laid down up to six years ago.

John Beardmore, who survived the fire on a British Airtours jet at Manchester in 1986 in which 55 people died, said yesterday: "We all feel terribly let down. Promises made soon after the accident that lessons would be learned have not been fulfilled." He will tell the meeting at St

Thomas's hospital that evacuation procedures have barely been improved and that research is dragging on over the fitting of external cameras to show pilots what is happening outside their aircraft.

Donat Desmond, whose wife died in the British Midland crash on the M1, will attack the CAA for allegedly failing to introduce safety recommendations, including the development of a new brace position for passengers to take up in the event of a crash landing and the strengthening

of cabin floors and seats. Mr Desmond told a recent BBC Radio 4 *Panorama* programme: "If we had had a better degree of safety incorporated in that aircraft, many of those people would have been alive today."

An orthopaedic surgeon, Professor Angus Wallace of Nottingham University, told the programme that re-facing seats would have helped and that a new and improved brace position could also have saved lives. "We believe that the new brace position should be standard and are disap-

pointed that only a few airlines have taken it up and the CAA is still deciding."

Flicking the criticism will be Dick Duffell, head of the CAA's aircraft systems department. He is expected to reveal that the authority has almost completed its research on a new brace position and will be recommending it to airlines in the summer.

He will say that most of the safety recommendations have already been introduced, but that some, including the brace position, need detailed research work which is still under way. The CAA said last night that, apart from the amount of detailed research necessary, it was limited by European Community regulations in the action it could take.

## Teenagers killed crossing motorway

Two teenagers were killed crossing the M40 near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, late on Saturday night. Andrew Cooper, aged 17, of Sande, High Wycombe, and an unnamed girl, aged 16, were part of a group of pedestrians walking across the motorway. Police said that they had already crossed one carriageway and were on the other when they were hit.

In a separate incident, Bob Puffett, of Surbiton, south London, died and his son Danny, aged 20, was badly injured when their van veered off the M4 near Newbury, Berkshire, and plunged almost 50ft.

**Council head**

Martin Doughty, aged 42, planning chairman of Derbyshire county council, has been elected leader of the Labour-run council, replacing David Bookbinder, who had been leader since 1981.

**Pilot dies**

Denis Smith, aged 61, a helicopter pilot from Collier End, near Worcester, died yesterday while having surgery for injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed near Wellington, Shropshire, on Saturday.

**Hosepipe ban**

A hosepipe ban is to be introduced in parts of Humberside today. It will affect Kingston upon Hull, Holderness, Beverley and villages in the Boothferry area.

**Library shop**

Norfolk county council is to open a mini-library in a village shop in Outwell, near King's Lynn, today. The council will pay the store owner, John Buck, £1,500 a year to run the service.

**Bond winners**

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bond prize draw: £100,000, bond number 4KK 306049, from Cornwall, value of holding, £1,250. £50,000, 35TF 041358, Birmingham (£1,962); £25,000, 27ZW 172383, Grampian (£3,095).

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## New conservation dispute sweeps ravaged estate

## Villagers fight to save oaks

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

VILLAGERS in Somerset are fighting to stop the felling of big areas of old woodland on a Victorian country estate. Orchardleigh Park, near Frome, has already been ravaged by the unfinished development of two golf courses. The classical parkland, surrounding a lake and a moated church where the poet Sir Henry Newbolt is buried, resembles a tank training ground after the bankruptcy of a property company that bought it and planned the golf courses and two hotels. The estate, including a mock-Jacobean man-

sion by Thomas Wyatt, was sold after the death in 1986 of its owner, Arthur Duckworth, a former Conservative MP. Local anger at the development has recently spread to plans by the owner of the estate's mature woodlands, another developer, Mark Newcombe, to cut down many old oak and ash trees. The woodlands are subject to a tree preservation order made by Mendip district council, but the council has given permission for the felling, which may begin this week.

Sarah Backhouse, from the near by village of Lullington,

who is secretary of the Friends of Orchardleigh, said: "The most magical historic parkland in north Somerset has already been devastated by developers' greed. Now its beautiful woodlands, which we supposed were protected by the preservation order, are to be ravaged with the permission of the very council that put the order on in the first place."

Mrs Backhouse's group is complaining to the ombudsman, and calling on Mr Newcombe to halt the felling so that the woods can be independently surveyed.

The present felling, about 20 acres of the 50 to be cut, will produce a substantial commercial crop of timber, which has already been sold. Mr Newcombe, who is based in London, said that the felling was necessary woodland management and that the felled areas were to be replanted with native broad-leaved species.

His view is shared by the council's development control officer, Peter Watson, who recommended the scheme to the planning committee. He said that the woodland had

been unmanaged for perhaps half a century and that the felling would benefit it.

However, Mrs Evelyn Franklin, of the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation, who has made a study of the woods, said that the proposed felling was too big and too insensitive. The Friends of Orchardleigh are to stage a protest on the estate tomorrow during a council visit.

Local anger has been fuelled by resentment at the fate of the estate, a prime example of a development disaster from the late Eighties property boom. Orchardleigh was bought by a London developer, Shiraz Kassam, who planned to turn the house into a 32-bedroom hotel and to build a 150-bedroom hotel, while carving two golf courses out of the parkland.

However, Mr Kassam's firm, Baron Hotels, went into receivership 18 months ago and the golf course construction was abandoned unfinished, but not before more than 40 trees had been removed and much parkland bulldozed. The estate is for sale through Savills in Bath, at offers over £8 million.



Orchardleigh: once beautiful grounds in ruin

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way to improve today is to be in touch with tomorrow. It's why, in the near future, letters really will be no longer sent than done.

Cementing a career: Anne Stokes, aged 26, a surveyor with Blue Circle Industries, who was named young career woman of the year yesterday

## Law urged to set up debt advice

By DAVID YOUNG

CONSUMER organisations are to demand a law making lenders pay for an independent debt counselling service, after a voluntary levy raised only £500,000 toward the £6 million which is estimated to be needed.

Delegates at the National Consumer Congress in Leicester yesterday discussed a proposal that lenders be required to pay into a national fund to support counselling organisations, with a contribution made on each individual transaction. The Money Advice Association said that the system of a voluntary levy, based on a percentage of total lending, had failed, largely because the building societies refused to give their support.

The Building Societies Association says that the voluntary levy imposes an unfair burden because building societies account for 84 per cent of lending but only a small percentage of total transactions and a small proportion of bad debt. It says that building societies already provide debt counselling.

Steve Chambers, of the Money Advice Association, said: "A levy on each transaction would mean that the cost of counselling would be evenly spread. The lending industry must take some responsibility for the problems debt causes. Lenders take no risks. They always have the county courts to fall back on." Frances Harrison, chairman of the Congress and a policy officer for the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, said that a national scheme would enable independent advice to be given.

Their initial conclusions are that it will add considerably to the 65 centimetres of sea level rise predicted for the end of the next century by the global warming study of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The rise is likely because of the expansion of sea water as it warms, and the melting of glaciers. News of their work will be given by John Topping, president of the Climate Institute in Washington, to a conference at the Royal Geographical Society on cities and climate change.

Mr Topping said that this century an estimated 2,000 cubic kilometres of water have been taken out of the ground around the world. This, added to the oceans, would give more than half a centimetre of extra sea level rise. But the "mining" of groundwater was expected to grow considerably with the rapid growth in human population over the next decades.

Many large cities on or near the coast are at risk from sea level rise caused by global warming. In addition, certain of them, such as Shanghai and New Orleans, are further threatened by subsidence from groundwater pumping or a reduced flow of sediment that restores delta regions.

In Shanghai, for example, local subsidence of 90 centimetres is expected by 2000, Mr Topping said. "If you add that to the 65 centimetres of global warming induced sea level rise, and then put on the additional rise caused by groundwater withdrawal around the world, you have a sea level rise of nearly two metres. And there you have a real problem."

The one-day conference is jointly organised by the society, the Climate Institute and the Environmental Change Unit of Oxford University.

## Freezing shower 'can be lethal'

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE dangers of taking a shower are not confined, it seems, to staying at Norman Bates's motel in *Psycho*, the Alfred Hitchcock thriller. The shock of a freezing cold shower can be fatal for those suffering heart conditions, a report on hidden dangers in the home says.

While the dangers of electrical points and fire risks have been highlighted in the past, the shower has escaped censure as a possibly killer. "If a shower suddenly runs cold it can cause someone suffering from coronary heart-disease to collapse," according to William Keatinge of Queen Mary and Westfield College hospital in London, one of the British Medical Association's spokesmen on physiological matters.

"Even healthy people have died after immersing themselves in cold water," Professor Keatinge says. "Some may not worry because they've been told that taking a cold shower is a healthy thing to do, but the elderly should realise there is a significant risk." Elderly people might not be able to nip out of a shower in time.

Those who are at greatest risk probably already know

they have a heart problem, such as angina, he says. But they might not realise how dangerous sudden changes in temperature can be. "Even healthy people have died after immersing themselves in cold water." There is also the risk of first degree burns if a shower produces unexpectedly scalding hot water.

He recommends that all showers should be designed so that such dangers cannot happen. "At least showers should have warning notices to make users treat them with care."

Mike Rymill, spokesman for the British Bathroom Council, said: "Obviously people who shouldn't be subjected to cold-water shock ought to bear this in mind when buying showers. That's why hospitals usually fit thermostatic units. But we think people are sufficiently aware of the potential for temperature change in cruder types of shower."

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Lib Dems' doggedness starts to pay off as poll support rises and political broadcast outshines its rivals

# Ashdown must tread a perilous path

By IVOR CREWE

PADDY Ashdown's energetic campaigning, especially his risky pledge to raise income tax to fund education, appears to have paid off. Liberal Democrat support has increased from an average of 15 per cent in the Sunday newspaper polls a fortnight ago to 16.6 per cent last week-end and to 18.2 per cent yesterday.

The significance of this mini surge should not be exaggerated. Support for the Liberal Democrats is still five per cent down on the Alliance's vote in 1987. On the assumption of a uniform national swing they stand to lose five seats to Labour. Most Liberal Democrat MPs are elected on big personal votes which cushions them from unfavourable national swings and the diminution of that swing has probably saved their skins.

Will the Liberal Democrats advance or retreat in the remaining ten days of the campaign? Since it started, Liberal Democrats have won over two Conservatives for every Labour voter and since the 1987 election the Liberal Democrats have made net losses to the Labour party but net gains from the Tories.

Whatever the views of Liberal Democrat MPs, their voters are closer in their views and electoral history to the Tories than to Labour. That could pose Mr Ashdown a problem. Despite the softness of their vote, Liberal Democrat leaders have two grounds for optimism. The first is the pattern of their advance in the polls. In February 1974, 1975 and 1983 support for the Centre fell back in the opening days of the campaign, held steady in the second and third week, and only picked up in the final week. Even in 1987, when disagreements between David Owen and David Steel crippled the Alliance's campaign, it picked up tactical voters in the final three days. This time the Liberal Democrats were barely squeezed in

the opening week and have started to climb at an earlier point than before. Secondly, tactical voting may provide a bigger boost than usual. Normally it looses the Centre more votes than it gains. For tactical voting to work the Centre must squeeze the Labour vote in Tory seats and benefit from an anti Tory swing. In the past three elections it has done the former but not the latter, and thus picked up next to no seats (except in Scotland, where there was a strong swing against the Tories).

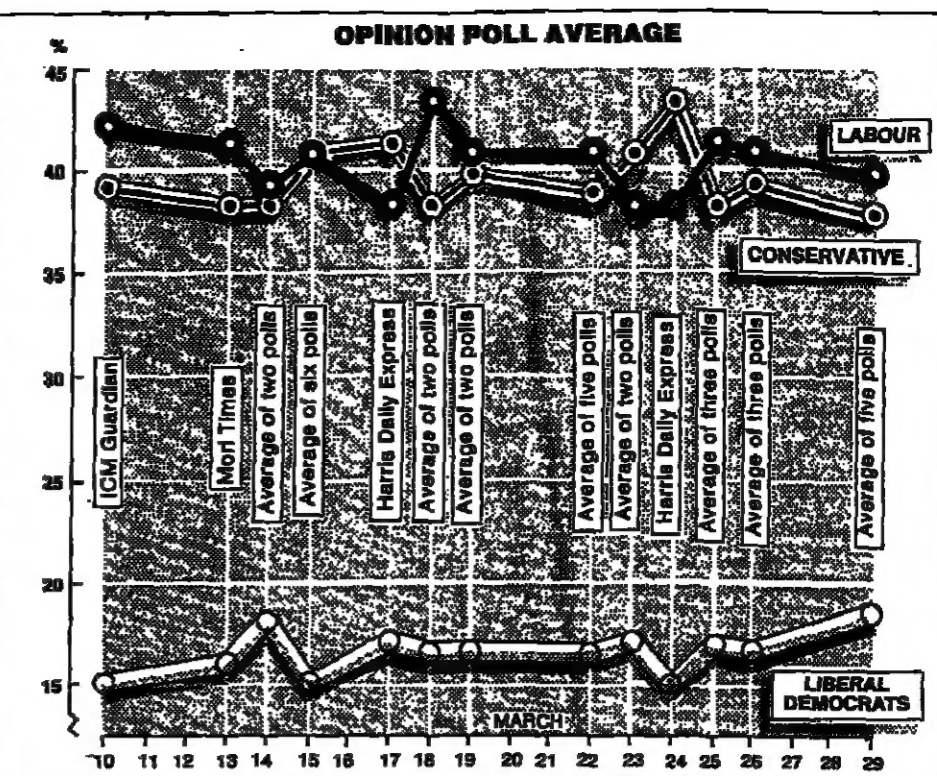
This time the regional pattern of tactical voting may work to the Liberal Democrats' benefit. Each of the three Mori/Express polls in this campaign have asked respondents how they would vote if they "thought that the Liberal

Democrats were likely to win in this constituency". The proportion answering Liberal Democrat was 35 per cent in weeks one and two and 41 per cent last week — more than double the Liberal Democrats' actual support.

Answers to such a hypothetical question must be treated with considerable caution: many voters are unaware or misinformed of the tactical situation in their constituency. But it is significant that willingness to switch from Tory to Liberal Democrat is strongest in the South where the recession is severest and where most of the Lib Dems target seats lie. A regional analysis of the BBC's poll of polls confirms that the Tory vote has fallen further (by 8 per cent) and the Liberal Democrat vote has held up best (only 4 per cent down) in the South. This is the one region where, despite the drop in its vote since 1987, the Liberal Democrats are benefiting from a net swing from the Tories.

Not surprisingly, Liberal Democrats plan to campaign relentlessly for tactical voting. But such a strategy presents them with an almost insoluble dilemma. To win over Tories it must convince them that it will not open the door of No 10 to Neil Kinnock's Mori/Sunday Times poll found existing Liberal Democrats split three to two in favour of a coalition with the Tories rather than with Labour. But to squeeze the Labour vote as effectively as in 1987 the Liberal Democrats must convince Labour sympathisers that they will not maintain John Major in office. With the imminent prospect of a hung parliament Mr Ashdown will increasingly find himself in the spotlight in the coming week. He will be presented with an exceptional opportunity to win votes where they really count — but also to lose them.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University.



## Stalemate holds as squeeze is resisted

By ROBIN OAKLEY

THE 1992 election campaign remains a neck-and-neck affair, with neither Labour nor the Conservatives managing to establish a significant lead and both losing ground to the Liberal Democrats in recent days. Labour is still ahead by a small margin but the Tories have edged up.

The two major parties had expected to begin squeezing the Liberal Democrat vote at this stage. But the furor over the Jennifer Bennett broadcast appears to have damaged them both, to the benefit of the Liberal Democrats, who have picked up support in the weekend polls and panel surveys.

Precise calculations in "polls of polls" covering the past week vary according to which ones are included in the sample. The Sunday Times figures covered all face-to-face polls over the past week that sampled more than 1,000 voters: Labour was put on 40.3 per cent (down 0.8 points), the Tories on 38.7 per cent (up 0.2 points) and the Liberal Democrats on 16.9 per cent (up 0.3 points).

The average of the five latest polls published yesterday puts Labour on 39.5 per cent (down 1 point compared with the previous weekend), the Tories on 38 per cent (down 0.5 points) and the Liberal Democrats on 18 per cent (up 1.5 points). Reproduced on a uniform swing on April 9, that would mean a hung parliament in which Labour had just over 300 seats and the Conservatives a little under 300, both well short of an overall majority.

The Tories took heart from evidence that they were closing the gap on issues like health, education and unemployment. But the Sunday Times/Mori panel survey showed they had still failed to make taxation a more salient issue: only 12 per cent named it as a prime issue of concern in deciding how to vote.

## People-meter scores badly for Major

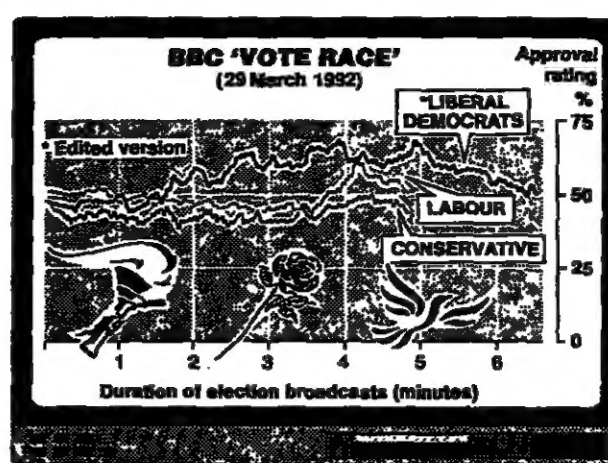
By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats' party political broadcast, produced on a shoestring compared with those of the two major parties, has struck a far more positive chord with the public.

Using the "people-metering" technique BBC Television's *Vote Race* programme traced the second-by-second reactions of 50 viewers representative of the electorate as the election broadcasts were shown, monitoring the individual responses of party supporters and floating voters who turned a dial as they watched.

The Liberal Democrat broadcast, in which Paddy Ashdown underlined his party's willingness to increase income tax by a penny to pay for better education, produced a plus rating of 7 points above neutral.

Labour's controversial Jennifer Bennett film earned a negative average rating of minus 1 and the Tories' broadcast attacking Labour's spending plans on the basis that they would cost every



taxpayer £1,250 a year was given the thumbs down with an average rating of minus 6. In an election in which television is playing a large part, such reactions could be crucial.

The people-metering reaction was even throughout the Labour health service PEB until Neil Kinnock spoke for a minute at the end of the broadcast to promise a modernised health service and the "choice between fear and hope", at which point it

soared. The Tory broadcast produced no peaks and troughs but a steadily negative response. The Liberal Democrats' rather longer PEB gained support steadily for the first five minutes, peaking with Mr Ashdown's promise of extra tax for better education, before dropping off over the last two minutes.

The people-metering technique, developed in the United States by Richard Wirthlin, was first used to test Ronald Reagan's speeches.

All were people-metered before they were made, allowing him and his advisers to test out the "power phrases" and the "emotive tugs" and to find out what he could say to attract floating voters without alienating his own strong supporters. The Conservatives were making use of the idea until a year ago when they dropped it in economy cuts pushed through by Chris Patten, the party chairman.

Several recent speeches and interviews by leading performers in the election have been people-metered and the Liberal Democrat broadcast comes out with the best plus rating yet. A speech by Bryan Gould on the Tory betrayal of the C2s earned a rating of plus 2 and Neil Kinnock's Glasgow rally speech on Friday night on the NHS scored plus 1.

Mr Major's interview with Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* earned a neutral rating, as did a rally speech by Paddy Ashdown attacking the two major parties for not discussing the economy properly. Mr Major's interview with Robin Day scored only minus 3.

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## Labour

# Kinnock vows help on public-sector pay

BY JILL SHERMAN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE economy again became the focus of the election campaign, Neil Kinnock pledged yesterday that pay rises for public servants under a Labour government would keep pace with those in the private sector.

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, was quick to clarify that that would be done only if it was affordable and fell within budgetary limits, while Michael Howard, employment secretary, claimed Mr Kinnock had got into "a pickle over public-sector pay".

Mr Kinnock's promise, on London Weekend's *Walden* programme, appeared to go further than the Labour manifesto, which says that Labour would "halt the deterioration which has taken place in the pay and conditions of many public-sector workers". Mr Kinnock said that Labour would ensure that public-sector pay was not left behind by rises in the private sector.

"To stop the gap widening is the sensible thing to do, would like to say we are going to close the gap but we are too

prudent, too realistic and honest to promise that... To stop the gap widening — that is necessary for the quality of services, the supply of essential people and the morale which is absolutely fundamental to the maintenance of good-quality services."

Mr Smith later stepped in to stem speculation that a Labour government would be unable to stop public-sector pay spiralling out of control. He insisted that any pay policy would have to operate within budgetary constraints.

"We would set public-sector pay within clearly defined budgetary limits," he said. He appeared to be at odds with Mr Kinnock when he added: "There is a clear difference between halting deterioration and matching pay increases." Labour sources said pointed out later that the big rises in public-sector pay that occurred in the Seventies were unlikely given the new constraints of the exchange rate mechanism.

Mr Howard was quick to exploit the confusion. Mr Kinnock dare not disappoint the public-sector unions, he said. "Labour would let their pay demands punch a huge hole in our public finances."

Pressed on *Walden* to say how he would stop a public-sector-pay explosion if rises were pegged to those in the private sector, Mr Kinnock denied he would attempt to control the level of private-sector pay by fiat or pass any law to control percentage rises. "There is no invisible thread between Whitehall and the companies in Britain that can be tugged in the event of the government feeling private-sector pay awards are running out of line."

Under a Labour government there would be a national economic assessment which would bring together the various negotiating parties and the economic interests, he said. The government would give them the picture of the economy over the next year and they would peg pay

rises accordingly. It would not be a return to the days of tea and sandwiches or even "carbonated water and wafer biscuits", Mr Kinnock said. "We will spell out the truth. They will spell out the truth and we will work together on the basis of this realism."

He said there would be a better chance for wages to rise for all workers as the economy moved out of recession and productivity rose. And he insisted that a Labour government would stick to budgetary parameters it had set itself. "We have made it clear we are not going to spend more than we can afford. We have got to work our way out of the recession with the tools we have honed and sharpened."

Later Mr Kinnock denied his party's tax pledges would demotivate workers. "People strive, thank God they strive, but the level of taxation does affect it. Of course there are penal levels of taxation, but we will not impose these for any level of income."

He said the 50 per cent tax rate would affect a minority of people, most of whom were highly motivated.



Baby talk: Harriet Harman with Sam Cinnamon, aged 21 weeks, at the London launch of Labour's policy proposals for the under-fives

## Ashdown softens PR terms for power-sharing deal

BY NICHOLAS WOOD POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, began to back down yesterday on his previous hard line on proportional representation in the event of a hung parliament.

He said in an interview on *Front on Sunday* on TV-am that it would be "appropriate" to include legislation in

the first session of a new parliament, which would last 18 months. But he did not press his threat to vote down the first Queen's Speech of a minority government unless it included a bill for proportional representation.

Some of his senior colleagues went further in preparing the ground for an intensive period of horse-trading if trends in current

opinion surveys are repeated on polling day and the election ends inconclusively.

Charles Kennedy, the party's president, and Sir David Steel, its foreign affairs spokesman, said it would open negotiations with a potential partner in return for a commitment that the next election would be held under PR.

Sir David, a self-styled

"gradualist" on voting reform, said that his pre-condition for talks about the four-year programme of a coalition government was "a commitment at least to consider the PR question as open."

Mr Kennedy suggested that the Democrats would be prepared to wait until towards the end of a parliament for PR to become law.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has promised in his election manifesto to enhance the authority of the Plant enquiry into voting systems. The unspoken message there is that Labour could bring other parties into a type of constitutional convention along the lines of that which recommended PR for Scotland and which Labour has accepted.



Smith: clarified leader's pledges on wage parity

MEDIWATCH by Brian MacArthur

## Home truths hit a raw nerve

John Major minds what the papers say much more than any previous prime minister, according to *The Sunday Times Magazine* yesterday. He waits up at night for the early editions, is upset most by the papers that ought to be "inside", but is especially irritated by the small group at *The Sunday Telegraph* that still idolises Margaret Thatcher.

As editors peppered their leading articles with summonses to Mrs Thatcher and Michael Heseltine at the weekend, breakfast with the Majors must have been a pretty fraught affair. Few papers are more "inside" than the *Daily Mail*. Yet on Saturday the *Mail* quoted admiringly a statement from Mrs Thatcher that the real issues were the economy, defence and Europe. "The lady, God bless her, has thrown a typically well-directed bucket of cold water over this yapping, squealing, political dogfight," it declared. Mr Major and his government had 11 days left to "raise their game". Otherwise they deserved to lose.

A similar theme was developed in *The Times* which thundered that Mr Major spoke too much like a cautious Treasury apologist. "The gulf between the leaden spokesmanship of most members of the cabinet and the Archie Rice performances of Michael Heseltine has become embarrassing... Mr Major has now to find the will to win. He can only find it from within himself."

That comparison of Mr Major with Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine was made again yesterday. On the front page of *The Sunday Times*, Mrs Thatcher was quoted, complaining the Tory campaign did not have "enough oomph, enough whizz, enough steam" while Andrew Neil, the editor, described Mr Major's progress round Britain as having all the force and direction of the "Marie Celeste". What the Tory campaign needed, Mr Neil said, was a new campaign supreme — Michael Heseltine. Sir Peregrine

Worsthorne, until recently editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, was not only disenchanted with Mr Major, he was even asking whether it really mattered who was elected. At least Messrs Kinnock, Hattersley and Smith were all recognisable British types, he argued, but the Conservatives represented an "alien" world which was not recognisably British at all and "scarcely even human". What really worried him was that the Tory party today represented the interests of the most internationalised sections of society on whom not much reliance could be placed to conserve the nation's character.

What also irked several commentators was the failure of the team surrounding Mr Major — derided as "baked bean salesmen" by *The Mail* on Sunday — to project his true character. Their over-marketing of Mr Major had undermined his fair-mindedness and made him look inept when he pretended to be a suburban Genghis Khan, the *Observer* said.

The real John Major did however shine through the profile in *The Sunday Times Magazine*, particularly in one revealing statement. "I still don't like the envy I see in society and I don't like the fear that many people face, and I think we can do something about it," Mr Major told Barbara Amiel. "I hate prejudice. And I loathe snobbery. I particularly hate prejudice based on colour or religion, of which there is still, alas, too much in our society."

The real Neil Kinnock also shone through an interview with Michael Ignatieff of the *Observer* in which Mr Kinnock admitted to an occasional twinge of class solidarity towards the Tory boy from Brixton. "At the last Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph, Kinnock pulled Major's sleeve just in time to prevent him laying his wreath at the wrong moment," Ignatieff wrote. "Afterwards, Major was generous with thanks, and Kinnock observed: 'Neither of us were born to this, were we?'"

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## Constituency profile

## High Tory prefers arguing on doorstep to baby-kissing

By KATE MUIR

THE main advantage of a safe seat is that it loosens the tongue. In an election campaign which consists of politicians checking leaks or their reflections in camera lens, Nicholas Budgen, the sitting Tory candidate for Wolverhampton South West, is refreshingly troublesome.

Infamous for voting against his party at the slightest mention of European monetary union, and for his hard line on immigration, Mr Budgen is more of an arguer than a baby-kisser on the doorstep. His constituents are used to that, for until 1974, this seat was held by Enoch Powell.

"I do argue for strict controls on immigration, but that's as much for the immigrants already here as the indigenous population," Mr Budgen says. "I just don't think arranged marriages should be a way into the country for untrained Pun-

1987 general election result: N. W. Budgen (C) 26,235; R. Lawrence (Lab) 15,917; B. Lamb (SDP/All) 9,616. Conservative majority 10,318.

jabi peasants. I'm not a frightened Liberal. As soon as you talk about immigration you're bound to be called racist, but that's the necessary exaggeration of politics."

The constituency is at least one-fifth Asian, and Dr Simon Murphy for Labour, and Colin Hallmark, the Liberal Democrat, might expect such statements to significantly reduce the 10,318 Tory majority. Not so. The Graysley ward, which is 57 per cent Asian, has returned John Mellor, a Tory councillor.

Mr Mellor is also the chairman of the constituency association and he says: "A lot of the Asian population is on our side. They have got the same interests as us — they've

got their own businesses, their own homes, and family life and religion are very important to them, and those are Conservative values."

In the street, an elderly Sikh man wards off Mr Budgen with growls of "Lab-our". Unflustered, the politician rolls on: "Hello madam. How are you?" The woman grunts. "Well done!" says Mr Budgen. At the shopping parade, a man in a car spots the Conservative more by his 1930s-cut green tweed suit with turn-ups and a waistcoat than by the blue rosette.

"How's the war going?" he shouts. This is language Mr Budgen understands. He bares his Staffordshire Regiment tie at the supporter and says: "I'm just a junior subaltern away from the front. All I know is what's in the papers."

The man nods. "Well, it's Nell's birthday today, and I hope it rains." He drives off. Mr Budgen says support is "robust" in this area, where the mock-Georgian doors and carriage lamps on former council houses signify as much as a party poster.

Better-off pensioners, who are mostly insulated from the recession, have rather arcane obsessions. What is Nick going to do to prevent the Staffordshire Regiment amalgamating with the Cheshires? Answer: wear his supporters' tie. How does he stand on Scottish independence? Answer: it needs a good debate.

Despite the polls showing a swing to Labour in the South-

East, Mr Budgen finds Wolverhampton's middle class are less badly affected. Every shopkeeper says business is bad, but there is still business to be had. Unemployment is about 10 per cent.

Of course, Mr Budgen, a confirmed and lonely monetarist, blamed it all on the European exchange rate mechanism and "servile shadowing" of the mark. During the recent Budget debate he was politely asked to keep his views to himself for the sake of party unity.

He echoes Mrs Thatcher's feelings that the Conservatives are avoiding "the two great issues" of Europe and the economy and means that campaigning has become intellectually flabby and far too presidential. Mr Budgen says that this election is showing how relatively unimportant politics is to people, but as a high Tory he considers that a sensible proposition.

One of his supporters, Peter Wesson from Tettenhall, a tiny suburb which Mr Powell once described as a bakony looking down on Wolverhampton, thinks the Tory campaign lacks spark. Mr Wesson is delighted that there will still be some "good old fashioned public meetings, particularly next Friday's with Enoch. You see, people here are prepared to accept a degree of independent thinking," he says, nodding at Mr Budgen.

A sulphurous grin crosses the Tory candidate's face, and he lets loose some unpublishable independent thinking. "It's not that I believe my prejudices are the objective truth, but they should at least be thrown in the melting pot."



Candid views: "It's not that I believe my prejudices are the objective truth"

## Britain's barometer shows stormy campaign ahead

By JOHN YOUNG

GRAVESHAM, a chunk of north Kent a few miles down the Thames from the London conurbation, is the most accurate political barometer in Britain in every general election since 1923, with the solitary exception of 1951, it has voted in the candidate of the winning party nationally. As Gravesend goes, so does Britain.

Confirmation that next week's result is likely to be a close call was provided by a poll in the constituency which showed the Labour and Conservative candidates level on 44 per cent, with the Liberal Democrat on 11 per cent.

Gravesend comprises the towns of Gravesend and Northfleet and a scattering of well-to-do villages. The population includes white-collar commuters and a sizeable Sikh community, which became established during the 1960s. Gravesend has come down in the world since its heyday as the principal ferry port for travellers to and from London, and its later brief spell as a fashionable watering place, but is still a base for the Port of London's health, customs and pilot services.

The area is scarred by chalk pits supplying a large cement works, but much of the paper industry, which used to be the town's biggest employer, has fallen victim to foreign competition, and unemployment is running at over 10 per cent.

The Labour candidate, Graham Green, is a solicitor, aged 38, who was born and bred locally. He sees the recession as the main issue, and one which has affected the

1987 general election result: J A Arnold (C) 28,891; M A Coleman (Lab) 20,099; R I Crawford (Lib/All) 8,724. C maj: 8,792.

middle classes as well as manual workers. "We have many of the features of the industrial North: unemployment, old industries in decline and a large ethnic minority," he says.

He sees the most important local issues as the closure of hospital wards and poor commuter services. "The rolling stock on the North Kent line is the same as my father used to travel to work in," he says. There is also concern about the threat to the green belt from the proposed Channel

tunnel rail link, and a planned relief road for the Medway towns.

Jacques Arnold, a former banker, aged 44, who won the seat for the Conservatives in 1987, admits that the recession has hit hard. "We did quite well during most of the Eighties, but we've had a pretty rough time in the last two years, and that has shaken confidence in Conservative policies."

In the Conservatives' favour are the "excellent" local schools, three of which have recently opted by large parental majorities to become grant-maintained, he says. He accuses Labour of scaremongering on the health issue and points out that a large new district hospital is planned for the area within the next few years.



Close call: Jacques Arnold says that the past two years have shaken confidence in Tory policies

## Recession rules in Labour stronghold

By RONALD FAUX

HIGH unemployment has had a curious impact on Kirby, Merseyside. Every one travels by taxi. A line of black cabs stretches more than 400 yards from the civic centre, a rank of rumbling diesels shuffling forward in perpetual motion to pick up passengers.

A housewife unloads a supermarket trolley into a cab boot and explains that her car went back to the garage when her husband lost his job. She finds the deregulated bus service between her home and Kirby centre unreliable, the fare is 80p and there is a wrestling match with the shopping. A taxi door-to-door costs £1 and takes half the time.

The driver adds his side to the economic argument. So many men have invested redundancy money in cabs that 300 taxis operate in the borough, plus a host of minicabs that are even cheaper. Driving is the only skill many workers can employ, so competition is fierce and fares are rock bottom.

Kirby lies on the northern fringe of Liverpool, part of the Knowsley North constituency where George Howarth has little difficulty defending a Labour majority of 21,098. Here is an unassailable base of socialism, where general elections are a rubber stamp and all life is blamed on the government.

Kirby is a mid-Sixties creation of fast-build concrete and brick, architecture that looks neat on a drawing board but which quickly takes on an air of dereliction when

1987 general election result: G E Howarth (Lab) 27,454; R Cooper (Lib/All) 6,356; R C A Brown (C) 4,922; D Hallsworth (Red Front) 538. Lab maj: 21,098.

neglect or vandals make their mark. The job centre and social security department are in a tall office block known locally as "The House of Plenty". The town is into its second recession, having never escaped the first. Since the mid-1980s, more than 3,000 manufacturing jobs have gone and unemployment has reached 35 per cent, 10 per cent higher than the Merseyside average.

When the planners created Kirby to provide homes and jobs for Liverpool's inner-city overspill, Bird's Eye, Massey Ferguson and Bendix were among the companies that moved in and generated 34,000 jobs. They have since moved away and the area provides 9,000 jobs, fewer than before Kirby appeared on the map.

Mr Howarth believes that support for Labour will increase even beyond the 69.9 per cent of 1987, because voters believe that the party has a good chance of forming the next government. Emigration from Kirby and Knowsley is high and he suspects that others have disappeared from the electoral roll since the community charge was introduced, but that such losses will not prevent Kirby from remaining an impenetrable Labour stronghold.

## ITALIAN VIEW

## Passions remain unleashed

By PAOLO FILO DELLA TORRE

"Today," I told my deputy editor, Sigi Pietro Jozzelli, "John Major repeated that people would have to pay much more in income tax under Labour, but shadow chancellor John Smith replied that the Conservatives might well increase VAT."

Jozzelli replied: "It sounds boring. A thousand words about Sean Connery campaigning for the SNP in Scotland would make much better copy."

He was right. In the absence of great issues, elections only come alive if colourful personalities are on the stump. The British election has so far been notable for its lack of both.

Niceness is all very well, but all it produces is a big yawn. Never have I had so much difficulty interesting my readers in a British general election.

The party managers are doing their best to make John Major and Neil Kinnock look resolute, but with poor results. Where is the smell of cordite, the passions unleashed, the sound of warriors charging into battle? Not since Michael Foot led the Labour party have real socialist ideals been the currency of politics here, while Mrs Thatcher was de-throned by her "loyal" followers precisely because her capitalist convictions and relish of the fight were too overt.

Major's measured tones and Kinnock's verbiage miserably fail to disguise the obvious — that Britain's present political leaders are no longer fired by conviction.

John Major has been invited to unleash the dogs of war against Labour, but can anyone seriously imagine him unleashing anything more threatening than a spaniel? We're all nice guys now.

But the Conservatives seem unsure how to play the nice guy card. When it failed to fire the troops, they called Mrs Thatcher in to do what they ditched her for doing — uttering her unmistakable battle cry. No sooner had she done so than they seemed terrified at the thought that she might upstage her successor, so now they don't know what to do with her.

An old Italian waiter at the Savoy told me that he once served Sir Winston Churchill with a dessert that failed to excite him. "This cake does not have a theme," the great man grumbled. The election campaign is like Sir Winston's pudding.

It is also totally insular. Where is the debate about Europe, which after all was the catalyst for Mrs Thatcher's downfall? In any other country an issue which aroused such strong feelings would be given a good run in an election campaign, but in Britain the politicians cower from the possibility.

Of course Britain is not the only country to be facing elections this year. Italians themselves go to the polls less than a week earlier. If Italians feel the spring sap rising in their veins they might vote for the beautiful Moana Pozzi and her Partito dell'Amore. What more revealing contrast between our two national characters than Moana and her Party of Love and the notorious Lindy St Clair and her Conservative Party? But in Britain the beautiful Moana would be confined to Page 3 of the tabloid press.

The author is London bureau chief of La Repubblica.

## Livingstone shoots from the hip as party turns its back

By JOE JOSEPH

ELECTION campaigns can be as unpredictable as Russian roulette. Labour party managers fear Ken Livingstone is the loaded chamber. "Are you in favour of devaluing sterling, even though it contradicts official Labour policy?" a television crew asks him in a schoolroom in Dollis Hill, part of his narrowly-held north London constituency of Brent East. The skin flushes, the eyes swirl. "You've been asked to say that by M15, who sent you here just to destabilise my campaign."

It is, of course, a joke for the cutting room floor, by a man who knows his reputation and plays up to it. The bigger joke is that, to the guardians of Mr Kinnock's Labour party, Mr Livingstone's serious campaign message is as whacky as his Red-Ken asides. He plays the jilted Miss Havisham of the party, entangled in his time warp, all dressed up with nowhere to go.

"I suspect that a vast majority of Labour MPs are in favour of a

1987 general election result: K.R. Livingstone (Lab) 16,772; Ms H.S. Crawley (C) 15,119; D.W. Finkelstein (SDP/All) 5,710; R.Q. Dooley (Ind Lab) 1,035; M. Litvinoff (Gm) 716. Labour majority 1,653.

devaluation... you need 15 per cent to make it clear to the market. I am in favour of that, along with everyone else who supports industry. Like the Institute of Directors and the Confederation of British Industry? They're just fronts for the Tory party."

On health he says: "Labour has said it is going to put in another £1 billion. That's not enough." Does he favour unilateralism, which also left the Labour party as the double-breasted Marks & Spencer suits arrived? "Oh, absolutely!" Without the constraints of democracy, how many people might Thatcher have killed in her lust for

power around the world? In ten years she'll probably replace Guy Fawkes as an effigy.

Will Mr Kinnock make a good prime minister? "I noticed it when I became leader of the GLC: everything becomes much easier. You suddenly have all that help and you get the last say on everything. Very few people can be so bad that they don't grow in stature when they become leader." Is that an endorsement?

How free is Mr Livingstone to state his own views? "My duty as a candidate is to tell people the truth." Is he surprised that Labour headquarters fears that he might disrupt the image of the new, moderate, we're-all-free-marketeers-now Labour party by making an indiscreet comment? "It's a valid fear because of what the Daily Express and the Daily Mail would do with it. If I blow my nose they would say I'm trying to spread germ warfare."

Just how scared Labour headquarters is about "loony left" headlines during the campaign is

underscored by Mr Livingstone's schedule. He moves from school halls in Dollis Hill to handing out leaflets on Willesden high road, then back to school halls. When you ask headquarters for the telephone number of the Brent East Labour campaign office, nobody knows, which tells you how chummy the party plans to get with Mr Livingstone for the next fortnight.

Barred from speaking at mass rallies, Mr Livingstone turned up to lower-key events like the debate at William Gladstone Community School in Dollis Hill, with Damian Green, the Conservative candidate, and Mark Cummins, the Liberal Democrat, to take questions from pupils, followed by a mock vote.

It is hard to know what 11-year-olds made of his complex arguments on devaluation, history lessons on imperialism, the need to force the vultures in the City to invest their capitalist profits — creamed from honest workers — in Britain rather than in New York skyscrapers.

These were remarks fashioned for

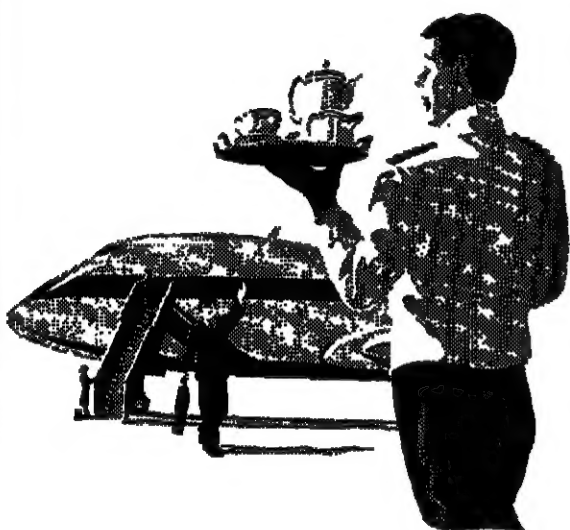
the BBC2 sound-bite, not the Dollis Hill school hall. Had a pupil asked if he liked chocolate, Mr Livingstone would have launched into a speech about how West African cocoa farmers were exploited by Western imperialists, to state bourgeois palates.

Like Dora before him, Mr Livingstone still dreams that the time will come when the people will hear him. In the meantime he will continue practising, in whichever hall is available and to whoever is willing to listen, however young they might be. Politics has become so dull, we are probably lucky that he does.

The result of the pupils' vote arrives: Cummins 2, Green 47, Livingstone 130. "Fully justified," says Mr Livingstone, who is defending a majority of 1,653.

If the William Gladstone school's result were repeated nationwide it would mark the biggest Labour landslide since 1945. But Mr Kinnock might think a revitalised Ken Livingstone too high a price to pay, even for such an extravagant triumph on April 9.

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# All the main parties have tried to strike coalition deals in hung parliaments



Thorpe: his colleagues rejected Heath's offer

Hung parliaments have occurred four times since the first world war: in 1923-4, in 1929-31, in February 1974, and in the spring of 1977. The first three occasions resulted from general elections, the fourth from the Labour government's loss of its majority through erosion during a parliament.

The election of December 1923 returned the Conservatives as the largest party, with 258 seats. But they were far short of an overall majority, because Labour, with 191 seats, and the Liberals, with 159, together substantially outnumbered them.

Stanley Baldwin, the Conservative leader, remained prime minister until the new

## Liberal demands for electoral reform have featured since the minority Labour government of 1929, John Grigg writes

parliament met in January. Then the Conservatives were defeated by a combined Labour and Liberal vote, and Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour leader, was invited to form a minority government.

Meanwhile, there had been alarm at the prospect of the socialists coming to power. Efforts had been made to promote a Conservative-Liberal coalition. Baldwin and Herbert Asquith, the Liberal leader, were against the idea, so it never happened. King George V was reluctant but soon con-

cluded that Labour should be given its chance and sent for MacDonald.

Asquith rightly assumed that Labour would soon be out, but wrongly believed that he would then return to power. At the election which followed the Labour government's fall in the autumn, the Conservatives returned with an overwhelming majority and the Liberals were reduced to 40 seats.

After the next election, in May 1929, there was another hung parliament, because the

Conservatives, though the largest party, had a majority of only 28 over Labour, and the Liberals, led by Lloyd George, held the balance with 99 seats. They had nearly doubled their vote compared with 1924 but their number of seats in Parliament only increased by 19.

Lloyd George, though a late convert to electoral reform, demanded some movement towards Liberal support for another minority Labour government. But MacDonald played for time by setting up a Speaker's conference on the issue. Before a reform bill could be carried into law, the Labour government fell, overwhelmed by the world economic crisis in 1931.

In February 1974, the Conservatives, under Edward Heath, had a majority of the popular vote but were five short of being the largest party in parliament. Heath offered Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, a coalition with a seat for him in the Cabinet. But Heath could offer no worthy, while move on electoral reform, and Thorpe's colleagues rejected the proposal.

Before the end of the year there was a second election, at which Labour secured a narrow overall majority. But this disappeared in early 1977 and the government would have fallen but for an arrangement negotiated by James Callaghan, the Labour leader, with David Steel, the new Liberal

leader. The so-called Lib-Lab pact gave the Liberals all the disadvantages of being in coalition with Labour, without any of the advantages, and there was no concession on electoral reform for Britain.

Today's Liberal Democrats under Paddy Ashdown will not contemplate coalition, or any arrangement to keep either of the larger parties in power, unless electoral reform is conceded in principle and in practice.

If there is a hung parliament after April 9, the Queen's role will in the first instance be simple. She will send for the leader of the largest party and ask him to form a government. If he does so, without any attempt to

form a majority coalition, and is then defeated in Parliament, he will presumably ask for a dissolution. This, according to modern convention, will automatically be granted, and there will be another election.

Should the resulting parliament also be hung, the case for coalition would be hard to resist. Only if no elected party leader were able or willing to form a sustainable government should the Queen involve herself in the tricky business of making her own choice of a potential prime minister. This situation is improbable. In that very limited and hypothetical sense, the royal prerogative is still a factor.

## Northern Ireland

# Major letters bring hope to unionists

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PERSONAL letters from Downing Street to Unionist MPs seem to be coming thick and fast. Evidence, according to some, that the Tory "charm offensive" towards unionists is being stepped up as a hung parliament looks increasingly likely. In the past two weeks John Major has written twice to Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist party leader, and once to Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist party security spokesman.

The tone of the letters has been accommodating and understanding, though, in the case of the correspondence with Mr Paisley, the prime minister has offered him little of substance on a new security strategy for Northern Ireland. Even so, Mr Paisley gave pride of place to the correspondence at his election manifesto press conference in Belfast last week when he read out Mr Major's second reply.

Afterwards he joked that he must be doing something right if no less a personage than the prime minister was willing to fax him back within 36 hours in the middle of an election campaign. His critics, he said, liked to say that he was an MP of little importance. Clearly this was no longer the case.

Maginnis, who published his reply for the prime minister this weekend, assuring him that Britain would do no secret deals with Dublin on the union, said he did not believe his correspondence owed more to the election than to Mr Major's genuine concern at answering the questions he had raised.

Other Unionist MPs have noted a certain increase in the rate of compliments to them from the Labour party, and believe that Labour is beginning to look seriously at post-election deals. Unionists are perhaps surprisingly unconcerned at Labour's policy commitment to a united Ireland by consent, believing that the historical record shows conclusively that Labour in power is as much a friend of the union — or more — than any Tory government.

It is widely accepted within unionist ranks, however, that Labour will have to sacrifice Kevin McNamara as Northern Ireland secretary. Neither party will accept him willingly, and some unionists might threaten to pull out of the talks process if he is appointed.

As speculation on a hung parliament mounts, Ulster Unionist colleagues of the party leader, Jim Molyneux, seem increasingly confident that his low-key strategy will play them into an advantageous position. They have a clear list of objectives, but will make no demands and will support a minority government, if the situation arises, on an issue by issue basis.

Mr Molyneux and his colleagues regard the contrasting strategy adopted by Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats as ill-conceived and doomed. They believe he has misunderstood the politics of a hung parliament and has priced himself out of the market.



Trimmed image: Shirley Williams, the Liberal Democrat, being groomed for a television debate at Anglia TV's studios in Milton Keynes

## Scotland

# Lang feels the full force as Tory tactics backfire

By KERRY GILL

SCOTLAND'S political parties spent yesterday reviewing their campaign performances in the knowledge that, barring some unforeseen electoral calamity, it would take some very hard work to alter the pattern of the past two weeks' polls in time for April 9. The Conservatives will have spent most of the day licking their wounds.

With Labour safely guaranteed the majority of seats, the Tories have been tacitly encouraging nationalist support in the hope that it will bite into Labour's vote. But the tactic has backfired, with the SNP now looking increasingly threatening in three Tory seats, including that of Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary. A week

ago Mr Lang sought to inject some zeal into his troops. The result seems to have been negligible.

A Mori poll for *The Sunday Times* Scotland showed that Tory support remained stuck on 20 per cent, four points below the party's 1987 performance when it won a decisive ten Scottish seats.

Just for a moment last week the Tory campaign seemed to be gathering pace when Sir Leon Brittan and Malcolm Rifkind ventured over the border to question nationalist assumptions that an independent Scotland would easily become a member of the European Community.

It was significant that Sir Leon and Mr Rifkind, a former Scottish secretary, should direct their spleen

against the SNP. Mr Rifkind knew how to reach the headlines. A Scot himself, he was able to get away with the charge that the nationalists were motivated more by their dislike of England than their love for Scotland.

The departure of Sir Leon and Mr Rifkind saw the Tories returning to their bunkers. Today they will let loose Peter Lilley, trade and industry secretary. Since most Scots are unlikely even to have heard of him, it is a fair bet that the Scottish press will prefer to lead on Alex Salmond, SNP leader, and his economic manifesto.

Mr Lang continues to exude confidence, saying that the Tories have taken the initiative by concentrating on the constitutional issue. He might think up another initiative, since sup-

port for the constitutional status quo has actually fallen over the week from 23 per cent to 20 per cent, according to Mori. Backing for independence has remained static at 34 per cent and support for devolution has risen two places to 44 per cent.

Once again the SNP has been shown unable to close the gap between support for the party and independence. Mori showed the nationalists still on 27 per cent, 15 points behind Labour. Albert recording about double their support in 1987, they are still as far away from their predicted breakthrough.

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats have been returned to double figures, 10 per cent, from last week's Mori poll, when they were down to nine.

## Carey calls for moral vision

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged political parties to adopt a moral vision and to stand up for Christian values. Dr George Carey urged the politicians to help Britain to be less acquisitive and more compassionate towards less fortunate countries (Robin Young writes).

"There needs to be a refocusing of a moral vision which takes not only our needs as a nation, and there are many, but also takes on board that we are a very comfortable nation... and that we ought to be compassionate and caring for the world outside our shores," Dr Carey said on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme.

David Blackmore, of the *Keep Sunday Special* campaign, called for election-free Sundays.

## Out of hospital

The grandfather of Jennifer Bennett, the girl featured in Labour's NHS election broadcast last week, was released from hospital yesterday. Peter Lee-Roberts, aged 74, collapsed while shopping on Saturday. He had not had a heart attack.

## BR cash call

Three out of five people want the government to retain ownership of British Rail and invest to improve services, a MORI survey for the Better Rail Campaign found. The group is sponsored by the rail unions and supported by over 200 passenger and environmental groups. The survey interviewed 1,012 people between March 20 and 22.

## Labour odds on

Labour is 8-13 favourite to win most seats on April 9, bookmakers Ladbrokes said. The Tories are 6-5 and the Liberal Democrats 400-1.

## Lost hour

Jim Sillars, deputy leader of the Scottish National Party, failed to appear for an interview on *Frost on Sunday* because he forgot to change his clocks to British summertime.

## LEGAL NOTICE

# ATTENTION!!!

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PEOPLE WITH BJORK-SHILEY CONVEXO-CONCAVE ARTIFICIAL HEART VALVES (NOT THE MONOSTRUT) AND SPOUSES

This notice is for people with the Bjork-Shiley Convexo-Concave ("C-C") artificial heart valve, and their spouses and this informs you of your legal rights.

There has been a problem with a small number of these particular valves.

If you or your spouse has another Bjork-Shiley valve, such as the Monostrut, or some other manufacturers' valve, then this notice does not apply to you.

This is a legal notice to notify you of a lawsuit in the USA which also affects people outside of the USA. If you have a Bjork-Shiley C-C valve you are entitled to money and other benefits.

There is no medical information in this notice. If you have any medical questions about your valve, you should ask your doctor or the implanting hospital.

## THE LAWSUIT

A lawsuit in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, has been filed on behalf of all people in the world with the Bjork-Shiley C-C valve. The name of the lawsuit is *Bowling, et al v Shiley Incorporated and Pfizer Inc*, Case No C-1-256. It is pending before Judge S Arthur Spiegel in the US District Court in Cincinnati, Ohio. This notice provides you with some brief information about this lawsuit.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A C-C VALVE?

If you received a heart valve before 1979, or after 1986, you probably do not have a C-C valve.

You can tell if you have a C-C valve by looking at your implant card if you received one after your surgery. If you have a Bjork-Shiley valve and the serial number of your valve has the letter "C" in it, you have a C-C valve. If the serial number does not have the letter "C", you do not have a C-C valve. Your doctor may also be able to help you find out if you have a C-C valve.

ONCE AGAIN, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A C-C VALVE, THIS NOTICE DOES NOT AFFECT YOU. IF YOU DO HAVE A C-C VALVE, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

## WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The settlement being considered by the court in Ohio provides:

- a payment to you or your spouse that can be used for any purpose, including consultation with a physician or other health care provider;
  - additional medical research that may benefit you;
  - the availability of a guaranteed, prompt settlement should a fracture of the valve occur. In that event if you do not accept the guaranteed payment, you may seek compensation through arbitration, or file a lawsuit.
- Please complete the "Information Form" to obtain more details about the settlement.

## THE HEARING

A hearing on the settlement will be held before Judge Spiegel on June 5th, 1992, at 10.00am, Courtroom 842, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, to determine whether the settlement is fair. You or your lawyer may attend.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

If you have reason to believe that you or your spouse has a C-C valve, you should get more information by completing and returning the "Information Form" below without delay.

Returning the "Information Form" will not commit you to any course of action, but will provide you with the information you need to protect your rights. Also, returning the form will assure that the court has your name and address so that you can receive the money and other benefits of the settlement, if you do not exclude yourself from the lawsuit.

You may feel you need further legal information. If so you may receive it without charge to yourself by indicating this in the appropriate space on the "Information Form".

You may also object to the settlement, or exclude yourself from the lawsuit. These terms, and their implications for you, are explained in the information you will receive after you return the "Information Form". You will not be able to object or exclude yourself, however, unless you do so in writing to Daniel J. Lyons, Jr., Deputy Clerk, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, USA, by no later than June 1st, 1992.

If you do not exclude yourself, you will be bound by the settlement and will not be allowed to bring a lawsuit relating to your or your spouse's C-C heart valve, except to enforce the settlement agreement or if the valve malfunctions.

## IMPORTANT

To protect your rights, you should get more information.

## INFORMATION FORM

Name of valve recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Address if different \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Stanley M Chesley Esq  
Walte, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley Co., L.P.A.  
1513 Central Trust Tower  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202 USA  
FAX (513) 621-6262

Mr Chesley is a lawyer appointed by the court to represent C-C valve patients and their spouses worldwide. I would like to be contacted by a European based lawyer appointed by Mr Chesley who will communicate with me in the following language (indicate one only):

\_\_\_\_\_ Dutch \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_ French \_\_\_\_\_ German  
\_\_\_\_\_ Greek \_\_\_\_\_ Italian \_\_\_\_\_ Portuguese \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish

Please obtain proof that you or your spouse is a recipient of a Bjork-Shiley C-C heart valve. You will be asked to provide this information at a later time to support your claim.



# Anglo-Argentines bat on in defence of tea and scones



Juan Perón: regime led to English exodus

CRIES of "How's that?" echoed across the Hurlingham Club cricket field on the outskirts of Buenos Aires as the home team caught out the touring Rosslyn cricket club's last batsman to beat them by 127 runs on the 10th anniversary of the Falklands war.

As the home side and the visitors from north London headed for the colonial-style pavilion for tea with scones and jam, rather than the typical Argentine late Sunday lunch of barbecued beef, the visitors were consoled by the knowledge that they had lost to a team which they called "more British than the British", a team of Anglo-Argentines who think of themselves as British in all but one respect. "We could never totally take the British side over the

Falklands war," said Brian Roberts, one of the Hurlingham batsmen. "The conflict eventually pushed us to decide that we were closer to Argentina because we lived here and had to continue living here. In the past ten years our community has integrated much more. The war was like a push which forced us to decide."

Otherwise the Anglo-Argentine community is well known for its efforts to maintain traditions and is considered an isolated community with eccentric habits. The Hurlingham Club is one of the last reminders of British influence in Argentina, an enclave of a dwindling but traditional Anglo community. The 103-year-old club, which looks distinctly like a

The British in Argentina found their loyalties divided by the Falklands war and now their children prefer to speak Spanish, Gabriella Gamini writes

brickbuilt railway station of days gone by, was founded by some of the first British settlers in Argentina, who arrived to build the railways in the 1880s.

First it was used for horse racing. British landowners and businessmen bet with the money they made in Argentina. Then came golf for the railway managers, and eventually polo and cricket. Horse racing is the only pursuit that no longer exists. The club also prides itself on having Argentina's only three lawn tennis

courts, which are used by Gabriella Sabatini, the Argentine tennis star, for Wimbledon practice.

"We are trying hard to keep our British traditions, and cricket is one of them. We take cricket jolly seriously," Michael Roberts, the Hurlingham captain, said. "We made sure the native craze for football was never allowed." Footballs, indeed, are banned from the club's 170-acre grounds.

But the tiny crowd which sat down to join the players

for tea was a sign of a community in decline. When British migration was at its height between the two world wars, a time when Argentina was referred to as "the bread basket of the world", the community had numbered more than 400,000. Today there are fewer than 30,000.

"I am afraid we are dying out rather rapidly. Forty years ago there were splendid crowds for cricket, now you get just a handful. That's because there are not many true British left," said Mike Parsons, cricket correspondent for an English-language daily.

The community began to dwindle after the Perón regime between 1945 and 1955, when railways were nationalised, leading many

Anglos to migrate back to Britain.

Those who remained tried to isolate themselves, but the older generation now fears the young are becoming more "Latin" and breaking away. "Our children are refusing to speak English, although we send them to proper schools," said Herbert Keen, aged 63, the general manager of the Hurlingham Club, whose family was among the earliest settlers.

"We've had to translate the cricket rules into Spanish. Luckily 'How's that?' just cannot be translated, so we'll keep some traditions, whatever," he added. Mr Keen has strict rules for accepting new members into the club. They have to come highly recommended by other Anglos and

put up an £11,500 membership fee. "These days more and more Argentines join. We're becoming a rare breed," he said.

Andrew Black, aged 65, whose grandfather arrived in 1882 to build the railway which runs through Hurlingham, said: "We kept telling our children that they were British, but outside the home they were learning to stick up for Argentina, so they opted to rebel against us."

"We thought that the war was a mistake. We feared that we'd suffer hostility, but never did, and therefore made sure that our Argentine friends knew we were not on any side," he added. "Most of us hope the whole dispute over those islands can be solved amicably."

## Khmer Rouge attacked Battles mar Cambodian homecoming

BY JAMES FRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE government in Phnom Penh announced yesterday it was launching a military operation against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, setting back United Nations efforts for a ceasefire in Cambodia's embattled north.

The announcement came on the eve of a UN operation to repatriate 375,000 refugees from camps along the Thai-Cambodian border into the interior of the country. The first 600 refugees were to be transported today from camps just inside Thailand across the frontier to western Cambodia.

The outbreak of fighting will not affect them, but UN officials cite violations of the ceasefire as another problem facing the general repatriation effort. The first returning refugees will find a country torn by landmines, arid and sun-baked.

Jean-Jacques Fressard, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the beginning of the homecoming to a land searching for peace "is a great human endeavour and a very difficult one".

Socialism has been abandoned for a dog-eat-dog capitalism in the cities, but the countryside still languishes in another century. The people here cover the land that is fertile and mine-free. There is only mine-free land available for the first few thousand returnees, but a start had to be made under the UN deadline, so the first group makes the journey today escorted by Malaysian troops of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia from the Thai border to Siem Reap.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday that he was very worried about the situation.

But the government of Thailand is tired of the burden, and in the world at large there is compassion fatigue. The first returning Cambodians will be given some land, "probably" mine-free, the frame for a house, some tools and the promise of food for 18 months.

Refugees under 20 years old have known little of life outside the crowded camps, of work in the ricefields, of contaminated drinking water, impoverished schools, poor health care and malaria.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN peacekeepers, yesterday described the return as "historic", and certainly it is vital to the Cambodian peace process. Under the accord, the repatriation must be completed before UN-supervised elections next year, allowing the UN to withdraw gracefully after the biggest peacekeeping operation in the history of the world body.

To those who witnessed the exodus of the Cambodians 13 years ago, after the Vietnamese army toppled the Khmer Rouge, it is also a poignant moment. In early 1979, they came emaciated, tottering through the forests to topple over dead at the roadside, or lie screaming on the ground in the extremes of cerebral malaria — "as if their brains were boiling", as one doctor said.

Some crawled to safety, a minority to find sanctuary in the United States, France and Britain, but most to stay for years in the camps, to serve as a fighting or labour pool for the Khmer Rouge and the non-communist resistance to the Vietnamese-backed regime here.

But most dreamed of a return to Cambodia, the promised land restored. It would also be nice to think the Khmer Rouge had gone forever, but of course they are part of the "peace process" and as such are currently engaged in bloody combat with the Phnom Penh government's forces in the province of Kompong Thom. Pol Pot will be the ghost at the feast today in Siem Reap, as Prince Sihanouk and Mr Akashi make their speeches.



Belle canto: Paige O'Hara, the voice of Belle in the Walt Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*, singing one of the songs nominated for an Oscar at a rehearsal for tonight's 64th annual awards ceremony in Los Angeles

## Misfits compete for the Oscars

IN TUNE with the gloom of the times, Hollywood is expected to eschew its usual taste for upbeat epics and instead crown films about killers, conspirators and other misfits at its 64th annual Oscar ceremony in Los Angeles tonight.

Hammering home the troubled mood in the American film world, hundreds of homosexual militants have converged on Los Angeles intent on disrupting the three-hour television marathon. As the organisers and celebrities grew increasingly nervous, gay activists from Queer Nation and other militant groups spent the weekend rehearsing a battle plan for conveying to the billion-strong television audience

Hollywood is expected to reflect the gloom overhanging America in its annual Oscar awards tonight, writes Charles Bremner from New York

their anger over the way Hollywood portrays homosexuals as psychopaths and villains.

Prime offenders, they say, are *JFK*, which features a group of campy New Orleans bigots, and *The Silence of the Lambs*, with its homosexual killer. Both films are favourites to win awards in the annual high mass of self-congratulatory "We'll show Hollywood homophobia we're not going to take their crap any more," said an announcement from Queer Nation, a group which has staged spectacular protests in New York and other cities over the past year.

If the organisers' military-style counter-measures fail, the ceremony could be in for an embarrassment to rival the appearance in 1974 of a streaker as David Niven introduced Elizabeth Taylor, or Vanessa Redgrave's and Marlon Brando's political acceptance diatribes of the same decade.

The 5,000 members of the Academy of Motion Pictures, the voice of the late middle-aged Hollywood establishment, usually opt for "feel good" films which embrace traditional values. But this year only one of the nominees fits the happy ending — the Walt Disney musical *Beauty and the Beast*.

About the only point on which conventional wisdom agrees is that the academy will prefer to avert a flesh-and-blood film rather than a cartoon. The choice is among tales of serial killers, assassination conspiracies, psychopathic gangsters and survivors of child abuse.

Oscars for egotism, page 14

## Arab split looms on Lockerbie embargo

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

CONFUSED and increasingly desperate Arab attempts to find an 11th-hour compromise to the Lockerbie affair appear to have failed last night, opening the way to a confrontation between Libya and the international community, with wide implications for the Arab world.

The United Nations Security Council is due to vote today to impose an arms and air embargo on Libya if it fails to turn over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing by April 15. Western diplomats say the 15-nation council is virtually certain to pass the measure with more than the nine votes required.

A senior Algerian official said that he expected the Western-led imposition of UN sanctions to lead to street demonstrations in certain Arab countries and to be exploited by Islamic fundamentalists known for their anti-Western standpoint. "There is a strong feeling at street level that, whatever the rights and wrongs of this particular case, the US and Britain are pressing something that will be unacceptable to many ordinary Arabs," said the official, who requested anonymity. "Can you imagine us telling our police to remove Libyan diplomats or close down their airline offices?"

It is understood that plans for extra protection of Western embassies and property have been drawn up in a number of Arab capitals. Arab radicals are said to be planning to exploit resentment against implementation of the sanctions by moderate Arab regimes, like Egypt and Morocco, which will be torn between Arab loyalties and UN obligations.

Yesterday two senior Libyans who flew to Cairo for last-minute talks with President Mubarak and officials from the Arab League again vowed "no surrender" over demands that the two Lockerbie suspects be handed over for trial in America or Scotland.

The crisis has reached an extremely critical and sensitive stage and I do not know if there are any proposals at this moment that could stop matters at a certain point or not," said Amr Moussa, Egypt's foreign minister, looking worried. "But we will keep trying to the last moment."

## Israelis launch last search for Ivan proof

Jerusalem: Israeli prosecutors yesterday left for Moscow in a last desperate attempt to discover fresh evidence proving that John Demjanjuk, the convicted Nazi war criminal, was the notorious Treblinka guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" (Richard Beeston writes).

With only four weeks to go before the Israeli supreme court is to hear the final arguments in Demjanjuk's appeal against the death sentence, Michael Shaked, the state prosecutor, must unearth concrete proof placing the appellant in the Nazi death camp if he is to have any hope of winning the case.

What was once regarded as a strong prosecution case mainly backed by eye-witness testimony from camp survivors has been undermined by documentary evidence suggesting that Demjanjuk was a *wachman* (Ukrainian guard), but not the sadistic gas chamber operator accused of killing 800,000 Polish Jews.

## Leaders held

Islamabad: The Pakistani government has arrested top leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to try to prevent an attempted crossing of the Kashmir ceasefire line. A curfew is in force throughout the Indian side of the Kashmir valley.

## Air thickens

Houston: The Earth's atmosphere is in much worse condition than two years ago because of a heavy layer of dust and smoke, according to Kathy Sullivan, a specialist on the US shuttle *Atlantis*. She also flew a shuttle mission in April 1990. (Reuters)

## Liberals win

Tokyo: Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party took two seats in a hard-fought poll in Gumma in the first by-election it has won this year, according to early unofficial results. The opposition Socialist party lost the seat it previously held. (Reuters)

## Ignition blamed

Peking: Chinese engineers blame an ignition circuit for last week's failure of a Long March-2E rocket to lift off. The rocket, built by Hughes Aircraft Corporation, was to have launched an Australian satellite. Another attempt will be made later. (Reuters)

## Suspects freed

Buenos Aires: Argentina's supreme court has ordered the authorities to release four Falklanders held since last week in connection with the March 17 bombing of the Israeli embassy in which 28 people died and more than 200 were injured. (AFP)

## Flood kills 29

Hong Kong: Twenty-nine people have been killed and more than 70 injured in the central Chinese province of Jiangxi as a result of several days of torrential rains and flooding. The rains have affected more than a million people. (Reuters)

## Nasa chief dies

New York: James Edwin Webb, head of Nasa from its infancy until the Moon landing in 1969, has died, aged 85. In 1961 President Kennedy gave him the task of landing men on the Moon within a decade. (Reuters)

## Toys released

Los Angeles: By special permission of the UN sanctions committee, 2,000 teddy bears assembled by Dianne Judice, a Santa Barbara nurse, will soon leave for Iraq. Customs officials here had impounded the bears for 59 days in terms of UN sanctions. (AP)

## Democrats rush to get rid of perks and the Speaker

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TOM FOLEY, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is fighting to save his job — less than three years after his predecessor, Jim Wright, was forced to resign because of personal misconduct.

As fresh details of the House bank and post office scandals are daily fed to a disgruntled nation, many Democrats have been appalled by Mr Foley's dilatory response: the allegations put at risk their re-election in November. They were already disaffected by his conciliatory legislative style, and a challenge for Mr Foley's job this year is now thought likely. One Democratic congressman, calling the Speaker's position "precarious", suggested it was a question of "who, not whether".

The Speaker's position has been further weakened by the unflattering media attention being suddenly focused on his wife, Heather, who is his unpaid chief of staff. She has been linked to attempts to delay an investigation of criminal activities at the

House post office and has been blamed for her husband's failure to act on warnings of the House bank's wrongdoings.

Mr Foley has insisted that he has no intention of resigning and has deplored the allegations against his wife. He said that she had done nothing wrong.

William Barr, the attorney general, has appointed a special counsel to investigate possible criminal offences at the bank, which has now been closed, where nearly 300 congressmen used to bounce checks on a breathtaking scale.

A federal grand jury is examining alleged criminal activities at the post office including the laundering of campaign money by congressmen and drug trafficking. Jack Russ, the sergeant-at-arms, and Robert Rota, the postmaster, have resigned and three post office employees have been accused of embezzling more than \$30,000. Mrs Foley testified before the grand jury last week.

The scandals have left public esteem for the Democratic-controlled Congress at its lowest ebb and boosted President Bush, who likes to blame the institution for his domestic failures. Mr Bush lambasted the "imperial Congress" as a bastion of "perks, privilege, partisanship and paralysis". Republican advertisements are being broadcast this week urging voters to "bounce the Democrats" who have administered it since 1955.

Desperate to regain the electorate's favour, Congress is now rushing to revoke its own privileges. Gone, going or likely to go are subsidised restaurants, haircuts, gym facilities and massages; free medical prescriptions; parking car-washes and leaders' limousines and access to VIP national park lodges.

Late last week long queues formed at the cut-price luxury gift shop amid rumours of its impending closure. "It looks like the last airlift out of Saigon," remarked a passing senator.

## Blacks think society gave Tyson raw deal

MORE than half of black Americans (56 per cent) think Mike Tyson, the former world boxing champion, was not treated fairly by society, according to a *Newsweek* poll. Tyson, aged 25, was given a six-year prison sentence last week for raping an 18-year-old beauty contestant. The poll was about attitudes to blacks who had been in the news because of accusations of improper behaviour or law-breaking.

Tammy Wynette, aged 49, the American country music star, has cancelled a rescheduled programme of concerts in Australia after collapsing for the second time in a month at a Perth casino.

Mikhail Gorbachev will be shown talking to an angel in the German director Wim Wenders' sequel to *Wings of Desire*, the film in which angels moved among humans, *Bild* reported. Mr Gorbachev's message to the angel

was: "You cannot build a world on violence. When all politicians, actors, artists, workers, men, women and representatives of all religions are agreed on this point, then we will be able to solve all other problems."

Zindzi Mandela, aged 30, the daughter of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, and his wife Winnie, became engaged yesterday to Zwelibanzi Hlongwane, a Soweto businessman aged 27. The couple intend to marry later this year.

The multimillionaire property developer and chairman of the Arts Council, Lord Palumbo, aged 56, has accepted an invitation to become the first chancellor of Britain's newest university, Portsmouth Polytechnic, which is to adopt university status later this year in a huge redevelopment project.

## Jamaica's new leader rejects big changes

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

JAMAICA has its first black prime minister after P. J. Patterson dodged scandal to win the nomination of the ruling People's National party.

He was forced to resign from the cabinet in January after granting a \$1.47 million (£850,000) tax waiver to Shell Oil, but retains party support. He said he did not benefit from the grant.

In spite of a dismal outlook for the economy a day after the Jamaican currency dropped to a new low against the dollar, Mr Patterson promised "no radical change in direction". Mr Patterson, a former finance minister and deputy prime minister, was educated in Britain.

He succeeds Michael Manley, who announced this month that he was retiring owing to ill health after 22 years as the leader of the party founded by his father.

Mr Patterson insisted he would be his own man and would not emulate his predecessor: "Michael Manley is Michael Manley. P. J. Patterson is P. J. Patterson. He's



Patterson: will bring his own style to post got his own style, his own stamp. I've got to bring my own style, my own stamp," he said.

Portia Simpson, his rival for the nomination, refused to accept defeat. "Portia is leaving this arena a victorious woman," said Miss Simpson, a former secretary and social worker. "Whatever happens, I will still be regarded as the prime minister of the Jamaican people."



## Yeltsin flounders in Dnestr quagmire

## Moldavia looks to Romania for help

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Moldavian authorities threatened to call on their kinsmen across the border in Romania to crush the break-away Slav mini-republic of Dnestr in the east of the country. Moscow, caught between respect for Moldavia as a sovereign state and emotional ties to its Russian-speaking kinsmen in the republic, offered its services as mediator and urged all parties to obey international law and respect minorities.

Valeriu Muravichi, Moldavia's prime minister, said his government, which proclaimed a state of emer-

gency on Saturday, was contemplating the use of force to reassert its authority over the Russian-speaking bastions on the east bank of the river Dnestr. In a clear reference to Romania, to which most of Moldavia belonged before being annexed in 1940 under the Nazi-Soviet pact, Mr Muravichi said assistance from abroad might be necessary. Tass reported from the town of Dubossary, in the heart of the disputed territory where up to 45 people have been killed over the past month, that three columns of Moldavian forces, number-

ing 2,000 men each, were seen moving towards the combat zone. Moldavia, along with Ukraine and Azerbaijan, has pledged to pull out of the former Soviet republic's joint defence system and started to establish its own army.

On the east bank, the Dnestr mini-republic — established on territory that was never part of Romania — can count on several thousand Cossack volunteers, as well as local security forces, and probably still support from the former Soviet garrison. Igor Smirnov, the head of the Dnestr administration, responded to the state of emergency by declaring a curfew and urging his forces to be "ready to resist attacks" from the Moldavian side.

The cause of the Slavs in eastern Moldavia enjoys widespread support among nationalists in the Russian Federation, and President Yeltsin will be politically vulnerable if it appears that he has failed to protect their interests. Moscow's appeal for a peaceful settlement was conveyed in a message from Andrei Kozhev, the Russian foreign minister, to his counterparts in Romania, Moldavia and Ukraine.

The desperate efforts of Mircea Snegur, Moldavia's president, to keep his ethnically mixed territory together as a single, loosely structured state are coming under attack from several quarters as his domestic critics intensify their campaign for reunification with Romania.

Leaders of Moldavia's pro-unification Popular Front say they would sacrifice the Slav-dominated eastern strip of the republic in return for the creation of an enlarged Romanian state within its pre-1940 boundaries. Under this solution, which enjoys some support in Bucharest, Romania would reclaim most of Moldavia as well as two small regions of the Ukraine. Kiev might, in turn, take the Slav industrial centres on the east bank of the Dnestr. However, Dmitri Pavlychko, chairman of Ukraine's foreign affairs commission, said after meeting Moldavian leaders in Kishinev at the weekend that the country had no territorial claims on either side.

Basharwan Petre Roman, Romania's former prime minister, has survived a left-wing challenge to his leadership of the National Salvation Front and been reconfirmed as head of the ruling party. He emerged triumphant yesterday after a three-day party conference overwhelmingly adopted his radical, fast-paced economic reform line as the front's policy. Left-wing supporters of President Iliescu, a veteran communist, walked out of the hall after being heavily defeated in balloting. (Reuters)

Across the river Sava, in the neighbouring Croatian town of Slavonki, a military policeman said: "We've got 20 tanks here and boy, we are ready to go, but we have written orders from Zagreb — we are not going over the river."

Bosnia's politicians meet in Brussels today in what may be a last chance to prevent the long-feared Bosnian civil war. While fighting raged in Croatia, a balance of terror between Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims kept the peace. It has collapsed in Bosnia, and it cannot be contained war will engulf the rest of the Republic.

## Serbian shelling of Bosnian town shatters ceasefire

Prospects for the UN's Yugoslav peace plan grew dimmer as bitter enmity between Croats and Serbs resurfaced. Tim Judah writes from Bosanski Brod

MARTE Blazevic, a member of the crisis committee of Bosanski Brod, touched the wound on his face. "The civil war has begun and it has begun right here in our town," he said.

If Mr Blazevic is right, Bosnia-Herzegovina will soon be plunged into vicious conflict and the United Nations peace plan for Yugoslavia will be dealt an almost certainly fatal blow.

Despite a ceasefire arranged on Saturday between Serb irregulars on one side and Croats and Muslims on the other, refugees were continuing to stream out of this beleaguered northern Bosnian town yesterday. It is now almost totally deserted.

A Croatian militia man, aged 27, was killed by a sniper yesterday morning and angry armed Croats and Muslims denounced the ceasefire, which is to be enforced by ethnically mixed special police units. "There will be no buffer zone and no ceasefire," said Mr Blazevic, who complained that the truce terms demanded a Croat-Muslim retreat.

The centre of Bosanski Brod bears the scars of several days of Serbian shelling from a stronghold on the outskirts which ended early on Saturday morning. Thirty people are reported to have been killed here since the beginning of March.

A woman hastily brought in her laundry as her husband and daughter packed their car with as many bags as they could cram in. The video and several large salaries. "Almost everyone has left," said the husband. "The Yugoslav army says it is going to make this the Bosnian Vukovar." He was referring to the Croatian town utterly devastated by three months of siege by the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army and its militia allies last year.

A neighbour rushed up. "We've all got to go. Now. My relatives just phoned, they said that tanks and rockets are coming this way, they are going to flatten this place." A

Muslim militia man sipped his coffee. "I want 50 of those Serb tanks to come here right now. I'd mow them down and chop them up."

An eerie feeling hangs over Bosanski Brod. This is where Croatia meets Lebanon. The bravado, the military disorganisation and the panic are reminiscent of Croatian towns and villages early last year before they fell before the Serb advance.

But Croatia was simple: Croats versus Serbs. Here gunmen and volunteers from a multitude of "armies" prowled the streets. "Allah is great," say the badges stitched to the jackets of Muslims. Others, members of the Bosnian Patriotic League, also known as the Bosnian Army, sport the fleur-de-lis. Bosnia's heretofore symbol suddenly revived after a thousand years in almost total obscurity.

A few "soldiers" identify themselves as volunteers from the Sandjak. They are Muslim Serbs in training for the struggle they hope to take home to Serbia itself.

Battle-hardened Croats with the insignia of the Croatian army also man the barricades, but all claim they are locals. Some wear the "U" symbol of Croatia's wartime Nazi puppet regime.

"Of course we want help from Croatia," said Mr Blazevic. "But they cannot help us. They are an independent country."

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## With President Mitterrand still attempting to retain his grip on power, John Laughland examines the growing fragmentation of politics in France

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One of the ministers elected in this way (who enjoyed the title of minister for administrative modernisation) was sacked from Mme Cresson's government on Saturday, leaving the Socialists in even more disarray than had been expected. Moreover, the expected alliances with the ecologists failed to materialise, and the Socialists were even shunned by the Communists.

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Listening post: Simon Vinkenoog, left, a poet, and Tony Dielen, right, a painter, listen with the mayor of Zoetermeer, near The Hague, to poems broadcast from a lamp-post. Compact discs featuring the work of national poets can be played back at the touch of a button

## Ukraine sets bait for moles

FROM ROBERT SHELLEY IN KIEV

SIX months after the KGB's agents in Ukraine found themselves out in the cold, the republic's new secret service is trying to tempt the moles out of retirement.

Ukraine's dearth of spies is due to increased responsibilities for the recently formed Ukrainian national security service as it develops into a fully-fledged spy agency rather than merely a KGB branch office. Not surprisingly, applicants for the 5,000 new spying jobs will need a professional disposition and loyalty to the three-month-old state. "All this must be with a background of good health, which is especially important given the current conditions in Ukraine," said Yurgeni Marchuk, director of the service.

Sceptical Ukrainians, who think there is no need to brush the soil off the moles, are being reminded that a recent anti-mafia operation netted guns, grenades, timers, and a corrupt government deputy minister, as well as large sums in rubles and hard currency. The arrests, carried out in four areas of Ukraine, were for racketeering, extortion, and other economic crimes which will now be an important focus of the agency. "In terms of its hierarchy, this was a classical mafia structure. There were several groups of racketeers with connections to corrupt police and senior officials," Mr Marchuk said.

Anyone who thinks they spot the same old faces in the new intelligence agency will face a stern rebuke from Mr Marchuk, who insists that the new outfit is radically different from its predecessor. He is looking for friendly links between the agency and its Western counterparts.

## Strident Siberians demand autonomy within Russia

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN KRASNOYARSK

AT THE end of their two-day congress in Krasnoyarsk, Russia's Siberian deputies strongly condemned the republic's central government and set out tough conditions for helping to keep President Yeltsin's reformist regime in power.

Nine documents were approved by the congress, which was attended by representatives from all but one of Siberia's nine regions. Deputies condemned the Moscow government for failing to consider local conditions when they took decisions, and called for a change of policy. Siberia, one of the documents said, "has been forced to beg for

social and humanitarian aid although it is the country's main source of fuel and raw materials."

Siberians want the right to sell most of their raw materials themselves at world prices rather than selling first to Moscow. They also want special assistance for their oil and mining industries, which require large sums in investment, and tax exemptions or lower taxes on raw materials.

The congress had heard angry complaints that Moscow treated Siberia as if it were a colony, plundering the bulk of its assets and polluting the rest. A law on natural resources which comes into

force on April 1, and Russia's federal treaty, to be signed tomorrow, both give local authorities increased rights. Furthermore, a Russian deputy at the congress promised special help for the oil industry. The Siberians remained unconvinced.

In one of its most politically significant demands, the congress called for regions and districts to be granted exactly the same status inside the Russian Federation as the autonomous republics and regions, with the right to pass their own local laws. Deputies also demanded the right to levy their own taxes and issue their own export licences for raw materials.

In addition, the congress displayed deep dissatisfaction with Mr Yeltsin and the government. A separate resolution called for parliament to have stronger powers against the executive, an end to the special powers that were allotted to Mr Yeltsin last year, and the removal of all presidential representatives in the provinces.

In part, the congress was one of several recent attempts by individual lobbies to gain special treatment in advance of next month's Russian Congress of People's Deputies. Opponents of the government are trying to engineer the removal of Yegor Gaidar, the deputy prime minister in charge of economic reforms, and chief enemy of Russia's hardliners. Other sectional groups realise that a promise not to support the opposition could command a handsome price and are making their demands known.

● Moscow: More than 75 per cent of voters in the northern Caucasus republic of Karachay-Cherkess voted at the weekend to remain part of the Russian Federation. The republic opted for union with Russia "conditional upon full application of the 'law on rehabilitation of oppressed peoples'". (AFP)

Bernard Levin, page 14

## Walesa trip ends era of mistrust

Bonn: A former Polish trade union leader calls on a member of the old German aristocracy here today at the start of a state visit to mark a new era in European relations (Ian Murray writes)

Lech Walesa will be the first Polish head of state to be received by his German counterpart — currently the aristocrat Richard von Weizsäcker — since the days of the Kaiser in 1918. It is a measure of the historic mistrust between the two countries that it has taken so long for their leaders to arrange a friendly meeting.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has said repeatedly since the unification of Germany that he sees relations between Poland and his country as the cornerstone of a common European house. He says he wants their ties to be as close as those between Germany and France.

## Moving up

Moscow: Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, who was sacked as Soviet foreign minister after the abortive coup last August, has been elected to succeed Eduard Shevardnadze as chairman of his Moscow think-tank, the Foreign Policy Association.

## Eight arrested

Los Angeles: Six former Polish officials and two Californians have been arrested for allegedly trying to sell \$56 million worth of arms to Iraq, the *Los Angeles Times* said. American customs officers had posed as front men for Baghdad, it said. (Reuters)

## Bonds tumble

Rome: With a general election now only a week away, the Italian Treasury has revealed that it faces a 32 thousand billion lira (£16 billion) budget shortfall for this year. The news sent prices of Italian stocks and bonds tumbling.

## Dubcek elected

Prague: Alexander Dubcek, communist leader of Czechoslovakia during the 1968 "Prague Spring", was elected chairman of the Slovak Social Democratic party. "Our aim is a united Europe and a dignified place for Czechoslovakia in it," he said.

## Taking up arms

Sofia: Monks and nuns in Bulgaria have applied for gun licences to defend religious property and themselves. In recent months, thieves working under the guidance of art experts have stolen icons, gold and silver crosses and a church bell. (AFP)

## Towns seized

Moscow: Armed supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president of Georgia, seized the western towns of Khobi, Abasha and Senaki and gave local government officials the sack, the Georgian interior ministry said from Tbilisi. (Reuters)

## Sex offered

Biella, Italy: Italian prostitutes in the northern town of Biella have offered clients free of their services for 24 hours to win back business lost to immigrant girls who, they say, undercut agreed rates and fail to take health precautions. (Reuters)

## Concern rises over church aid for Basque separatists

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE arrest of a priest alleged to have hidden Basque separatists suspected of a bombing that killed three people has revived tensions between the state and the Catholic Church in northern Spain.

Jose Ramon Treviño was detained last week and transferred to Madrid for interrogation. He is accused of harbouring two separatists from the group Eta and helping them to escape after they had allegedly detonated a car bomb in Santander. Concern

has increased after the priest's superiors said they had been unaware of his activities. The judge must decide whether to summon the Bishop of San Sebastian.

The bishop said his priest was being held because "it seems" that he had allowed two presumed members of Eta to spend two nights in a church annex. He said the priest had befriended one of the men, but that there was no proof he had been told of the bomb.



Mitterrand: looking for an escape route



Cresson: hampered by massive unpopularity

grees of political coherence on to a country so obviously fragmented?

There is a final difficulty. M Mitterrand has for long hoped to use "Europe" as the point around which to rally a new centre-left, post-Socialist coalition. Because the Maastricht treaty entails further transfer of powers to the European Community, the French constitution may have to be changed.

If there were to be a referendum on this, it is difficult to see how the issue of Europe

could be separated from the issue of M Mitterrand's government as a whole, and it is hardly likely that the outcome would be favourable to the president. M Mitterrand said recently that the Maastricht treaty would have to be ratified between the spring solstice (March 21) and the summer equinox (June 21). Perhaps he should have paid more attention to the tides of March.

● Paris: After a week of doleful contemplation, President Mitterrand is poised to break

his silence about what comes next for France's crumbling Socialist government (Philip Jacobson writes)

Political insiders were predicting yesterday that he will react to the disastrous regional election results with an address to the nation early this week, perhaps even today. At the top of his agenda must be the question of whether the time has finally come to end Mme Cresson's turbulent 10 months as prime minister. Her own massive unpopularity was clearly reflected in the stunning setbacks for her party throughout France: Mme Cresson has also committed the grave political offence of damaging M Mitterrand's standing with the voters.

True to form, the president has been playing his cards close to the chest, allowing aides to drop the odd gnomish hint about his intentions to the media. This has naturally intensified the feverish speculation about Mme Cresson's future — assuming she has one — and the relative standing of possible successors.

John Laughland is a lecturer in politics at the Sorbonne

## Patchwork quilt of French politics smothers Socialists

PRESIDENT Mitterrand's elaborate plan to wriggle out of the defeat inflicted on the Socialist party in last week's regional elections lies in ruins. As voters went to the polls in the second, canonical round of local elections yesterday it became clear that the Socialists' poor showing in the first round (18 per cent of the national vote) had been part of a more general collapse in support for the traditional parties. It heralds the return to French politics with a vengeance of that endemic, perhaps Latin, weakness: political fragmentation.

Nearly 50 per cent of voters chose fringe parties, from the resolutely unreconstructed Communist party and the newly prominent ecologists on the left to the National Front and the charmingly reactionary and romantic Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition party on the right, founded to oppose Brussels' attempts to ban the shooting of wood pigeons.

Because the regional assemblies are elected by proportional representation (unlike the National Assembly), the result was that in only three out of the 22 re-

gions did any party come up with an absolute majority.

The Socialists had hoped to be able to count on the support of the ecologists (already divided into two rival parties), the Communists, and various other centre-leftists in the elections for the presidencies of the regional assemblies which took place on Friday. The strategy had been to split the traditional right-wing opposition on the question of whether to form electoral pacts with the National Front. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader, was also useful to the Socialists for another reason: for months now, they have been trying to present themselves as the only party capable of opposing him.

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The sense of panic was further heightened by the fact that both Mme Cresson and Pierre Berégovoy, the finance minister, found themselves facing unexpected challenges

in the second round of local elections held yesterday.

It is difficult to see where President Mitterrand can go from here. There is not only the sensitive question of a possible replacement for Mme Cresson: the president would have to be sure that any new prime minister would be capable of genuinely relaunching the collapsing fortunes of the Socialists, and any incoming prime minister might be sipping from a poisoned chalice.

There is also the huge unpopularity of the system of proportional representation used for regional elections which M Mitterrand wants to introduce at national level as well, so as to prevent the right from gaining an absolute majority, even if this means dismantling the Socialist party in the process.

There is a deep consensus in France that on no account should there be any return to the chronic instability which characterised French politics under the Third and Fourth Republics (until 1958). Yet the outcome of the regional elections has also revealed a deeper dilemma: how does one enforce a reasonable de-



Mitterrand: looking for an escape route



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## Where Labour is vulnerable

The polls are less comfort to Kinnock than they appear, says Peter Riddell

Labour leaders are already talking like ministers, but they should not assume the election is in the bag. The party has so far fought the sharpest campaign, as it did in 1987, and it remains ahead of the Tories. But Labour has not made any further headway in the past week.

Behaving like a government is smart tactics for a party so long in opposition. Talk of shadows is banned: it is now Labour's chancellor or budget. In his interview yesterday with Brian Walden on ITV, Neil Kinnock sought to reassure not only in his comments about public spending but also by dressing so soberly that he could be mistaken for one of the more old-fashioned members of the Aslee cabinet in 1945. I am waiting to hear that John Smith's favourite reading is the budget speeches of Stafford Cripps.

However, the latest polls are of less comfort to Labour than they appear. The bitter row over Jennifer Bennett has damaged both parties, but overall, has worked slightly to Labour's disadvantage on a question, health, that should have helped to increase its lead. Nearly a week has been wasted.

More worrying for Labour is the advance of the Liberal Democrats, clear beneficiaries of the Bennett row at a time when some of its canvassers were becoming worried about signs of weakening support. As it is, the party's rating has risen by three points, near to where the former Alliance stood at this stage of the 1987 campaign.

This could, of course, be a temporary blip, but the party is fighting a more coherent campaign than five years ago, clearly differentiating itself on education and on Europe. The party has a good base for the rest of the campaign, especially as it may receive more attention if there is talk of a hung parliament.

The electoral impact varies across the regions. Liberal Democrat support appears to be weaker in the North than in the South, in contrast with the even pattern of the past. So the anti-Tory swing could let Labour gain a large number of seats in the North-West and Yorkshire. But in the South, a relatively strong showing by the Liberal Democrats could hold back Labour. Admittedly, Tories with narrow majorities, as in Cheltenham, Portsmouth South, Bath and Richmond, could suffer from any Liberal Democrat advance. But in many other seats where the opposition vote is fairly evenly divided, Tories could absorb a drop in their vote in face of advances by both Labour and Liberal Democrats. There could be some close results, however.

The refusal of the Liberal Democrats to disappear in the South reflects a deeper difficulty for Labour — the widespread doubts of voters both about Mr Kinnock's abilities and about the party's economic competence. Although Labour is generally credited with having fought the most impressive

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

campaign, voters have become more sceptical during the campaign about the affordability of its promises and its ability to handle the economy. And, while the Tories have failed to push fears of tax increases to the centre of the public's attention, the issue could still be significant. The latest NOP survey suggests that nearly two-thirds of all voters think they would pay higher taxes under Labour than the Tories, and a quarter think that tax bills would be much higher.

The implication of this is that not only the Tories but also Labour leaders need to reassess their approach. Labour, and to a lesser extent the Liberal Democrats, have maintained their support thanks to voters' dislike of the Tories over rising unemployment, the poll tax and standards of public services. They feel let down.

But voters do not necessarily believe that Labour could produce much of an improvement, except in health and education, and they are apprehensive about possible increases in tax, interest rates and inflation. Their concern reflects Labour's own quandary, how to offer the hope of change while appearing responsible by recognising constraints on public spending and borrowing. The party's emergency recovery programme is in that respect mainly a gesture of looking active in contrast to the Treasury's apparent passivity — and one that may be offset by the impact of tax increases.

The Tories are suffering from a mirror difficulty. Their negative campaigning against Labour may have solidified their own core support, and limited a further advance by the Opposition. But the Tories have not been able to move into the lead because they have failed to offer a coherent justification for a fourth term. They have been unsure whether to distance themselves from the Thatcher years or to trumpet their achievements. There have been only sporadic positive statements by John Major and Michael Heseltine, though a shift of approach is now promised. That has been the Tories' main difficulty rather than the ephemeral, and panicky, backsliding over media tactics by retiring MPs and former advisers. As Bernard Ingham once growled to me, "I wouldn't want to go into the jungle with that lot".

The election will turn on the balance between blaming the Tories for the recession and doubts about a Labour government. Mr Kinnock conceded yesterday that recessions do not necessarily radicalise people, because they create insecurity. There were, he said, people who will hold on to nurse. He did not complete Bello's lines, "for fear of finding something worse".

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William Cash in Hollywood watches millions being lavished on a need to be loved

## Oscars for egotism

Watching it on television," said Glenda Jackson of the 1979 Oscar ceremony. "I felt disgusted, as though I was watching a public hanging. No one should have a chance to see so much desire, so much need for a prize, and so much pain when not given."

The pain of losing will be especially acute tonight when studio executives think of the millions of dollars they have spent on wooing Academy members. Since January, the mail-boxes of the voters have been deluged with gifts, screening invitations and video cassettes in designer bags. Sending out 5,000 videos costs about \$40,000.

When they drove up Sunset Boulevard their attention was bought by 30-ft-high "wishes to congratulate" hoardings for films no longer on release. The count-down to the closing date for ballot papers saw *Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter* getting fatter each day with \$10,000 double-page colour advertisements. The British Academy member Jerry Pam, whose PR firm handles Roger Moore and Michael Caine, estimates his Oscar campaign mail to be double that of five years ago.

The Croesus-like sums spent this year on Oscar lobbying — well beyond the pocket of such British-made films as Mike Leigh's *Life Is Sweet*, which won the National Film Critics Award but failed to be Academy nominated — raises a question. Can you buy an Oscar? If so, how much?

Oscar campaigning this year cost the big studios about \$7 million. Despite filing for bankruptcy, Orion spent \$325,000 promoting *Silence of the Lambs*, which is up for seven awards, including Anthony Hopkins for Best Actor. Tri-Star (*Bugs*, *The Fisher King*) and Disney (*Beauty and the Beast*) have each spent about \$1 million in promotion. Disney went so far as hiring the veteran lobbyist Happy Godday (fee: \$35,000), to ensure that its animated film stands a good chance of winning Best Original Song and Best Score. Godday's 25-year campaigning record is unsurpassed, with nine Oscars and 33 nominations.

But tempting as it may be to imagine Hollywood as a town ruled by money, Oscar lobbying has more to do with vanity than financial greed. The real purpose of the Oscar campaign trail is self-aggrandisement. Executives get to see their names emblazoned in self-congratulatory large type around Hollywood. Most of the advertisements in the trade newspapers — such as *TriStar* touting Arnold Schwarzenegger for Best Actor in *Terminator 2* — have nothing to do with winning, or attempting to buy, an Oscar. They are excuses for studios to promote stars for future projects. As the MGM marketing president Greg Morrison admitted recently: "Win or lose, the studios are looking to enhance the value of their films and film-makers. They're scratching the backs of the talent."

Tonight's ceremony may be watched by an estimated billion television viewers, but to Academy members themselves the ceremony has little to do with the rest of

the world. The awards are how Hollywood views itself. Nobody really cares about the few extra million dollars a winning film may gross in foreign markets.

Insecurity is rampant in Hollywood. The Oscars are the ultimate test of popularity, which is why Jodie Foster should win Best Actress again, and why Barbra Streisand was snubbed for Best Director. When Sally Field won Best Actress for the second time, she said that on the first occasion she had not been sure, but "now I know you like me — you really like me".

What is rarely understood outside Hollywood is that the ambition there is not only to make money — most have sizeable fortunes already — but to make films that matter. The criterion for deciding Best Picture is not box-office success (*My Left Foot* grossed only \$2.65 million before it was nominated), but seriousness of purpose.

Some idea of the importance

Hollywood attaches to the medium of film can be judged from the Academy's new \$6 million Center for Motion Picture Study in Beverly Hills. The building has been designed as an exact copy of a Spanish Revivalist church, with its steeple modelled after the Giralda Tower in Seville. Inside, the centre has the hushed feel of a monastic library.

When the young Tom Stoppard was asked by London's theatre critics what *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* was "about", after its successful opening night, he replied: "I hope it's about to make me a lot of money." Such candour is rare in Hollywood, where a simple desire to acquire money is viewed as a lowly form of ambition. As Raymond Carver wrote: "Money will buy you pathetically little in Hollywood."

The real ambitions of Hollywood denizens are invariably more grandiose: a zealous quest for respect and legitimacy from peers. On the political campaign trail for California's primary in June, the stars will once again be on parade, because politics, like the Oscars, provides the ideal public podium for them to indulge vain and rampaging egos.

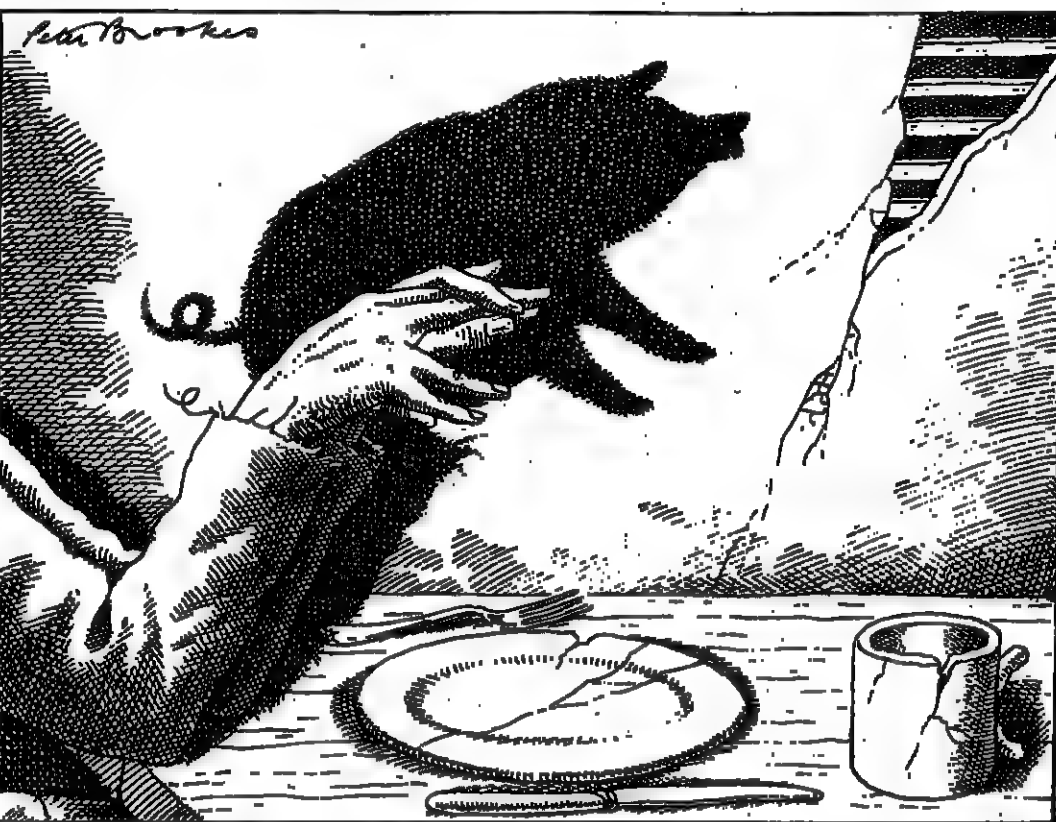
Bernard Levin asks how Russia can change without essential labour skills

The extraordinarily touching letter from Russia that was printed on our letters page a few weeks ago epitomised the dilemma of the people of what was the Soviet Union. The interminable fighting still raging is full of horrors, and the shortages of the simplest materials, even food, is worse still, considering the need and the urgency. (Mark my words, one of these days Professor Hobsbawm will pop up and say, in *The Guardian* and at length, that yes of course Stalin had faults — for instance, he would never bother to trim his straggly moustache — but at least he kept the country together and avoided famine.)

Yet in the long run the greatest difficulty may not be typified by that letter, in which the writer, who wanted to start a business and had no idea how to do so, begged for information on the subject. The 18th century was greatly given to discussing an intriguing question: if a man blind from birth was in the habit of handling a sphere, a pyramid and a cube, all of much the same size, and then gained his sight, would he be able to tell which object was which without touching? Eventually it happened, and the answer was no.

That is the crux of what ails the Russian republics: they can see the sphere, the pyramid and the cube, but they have no way to distinguish between them. Nor is the problem of creating a business the worst and most urgent difficulty; the foundation of the economic shambles lies below such matters, necessary though a remedy is. The truth is that the people who lived in the Soviet Union do not know what work is.

That is not some fancy paradox but the literal truth. Indeed, it was a kind of mantra: "They pretend to



pay us, and we pretend to work." We all know the stories — true, every one — about the shoe factory that turned out left shoes only; the bicycle factory that bolted every pair of handlebars on back to front; the factory with new machinery installed, in which the workers toiled through the night to dismantle it entirely, each taking a piece, if only a slab of metal with no useful function, in case it could one day be sold. After all, it was the Soviet Union which invented the "perhaps bag", a string container that housewives carried everywhere because "perhaps" there might be something to buy.

Why do you suppose, before the collapse, that visitors to Moscow were offered black-market currency at a rate of one hundred to one? Because there was nothing to buy with the rubles, however many there were, and only the foreign-currency shops had anything to sell. A country in which there is no

incentive will do nothing; nothing was what the people of the Soviet Union duly did. And now they must work, and do not know how. A vignette from a reporter of *The Los Angeles Times* in Moscow sets the scene:

Every day, Moscow's budding merchant class floods to the pedestrian passage to hawk its wares — boxes of Indian tea, cheap silverware, shoddy denim clothes from Egypt, Soviet-made stereo equipment, macaroni, a frozen pile, posters of Samantra, Fox (to God! Oh Moscow), a pair of shoes. The would-be customers, or just Muscovites trying to get from one place to another, must force their way between parallel lines more than 100 feet long of people who hold aloft the items for sale as though they were treasure chests.

But that is little more than an exchange and mart; and the problem will not necessarily be solved because Moscow's first sex shop has just opened, under the name of *The Intimacy Store-Salon*.

Mrs Likhoda, who wrote to *The Times* for advice on starting a business, is not alone; there is even an organisation called *Gilda* that offers guidance on the subject. But does *Gilda* run courses on how to make the employees of the new businesses work for their living?

The greatest obstacle to economic progress in the former Soviet lands is the brutishness to which 70 years of communism have reduced the people. If you have lived in a three-room apartment shared with two other families, with no hot water supply and no materials with which to plug the leaks in the roof and the walls, if all three husbands are miners who have no washing facilities at the mine and no soap (or hope of buying any) when they come home, and when the three wives have to stand daily for two or three hours in sub-zero temperatures to buy food or five hours if some unimaginable treasures, such as a few oranges, are rumoured to be

on sale, it is likely that all hope has been abandoned years ago, and its place filled with drink.

How then is a workforce to be recruited, trained, inspired and rewarded out of the material to hand? It is all very well to say that the market will do the job: so it will, but even the sturdiest market will have to take a breath or two in pushing over mountains. And the danger is obvious: not that there will be a return to communism, but that, tired of waiting for a loaf of bread, the potential workforce will have given up their last slender hope and slumped into a despond from which no promise, no incentive, can make them rise.

To a considerable extent, the nations of the Soviet Empire are in the same situation; there is now a good deal of cynicism about. But the Poles, the Czechoslovaks, the Hungarians and the rest, had, to inspire them throughout the Occupation, one beacon that could never be put out: their hatred for the evil thing that had stolen their land and lives. True, the Soviet colonies had been in pawn for more than 40 years, and it might be thought that every silver of resistance or national feeling would have been crushed, which was what happened to the captive peoples of the Soviet Union themselves. That is what the Soviet rulers hoped, and eventually believed, but they were wrong.

Let us help Mrs Likhoda, and all her kind, for ultimately it is her kind that will save their country. But you cannot build a house by starting with the roof. It is tuition in the simplest task that is needed, and here is an opportunity for our own shrunken and downhearted unions. The Russian lands need bricklayers, electricians, carpenters, railwaymen, drivers, glaziers, bakers, steelworkers and for that matter gravediggers. Years of indifference have debased these trades, and left a shortage of those who can ply them, even badly. They need tuition, and our unions, out of favour for ever in Britain, might be welcomed. After all, the slavish fellow-travelling once rife among our union leaders demands some reparation. We could even send Scargill; you never know when they might need strikers.



...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

The first edition of a new magazine in my country, *Derby Now*, leans off with a rude article about the city itself. "Derby," it says, "is a city with a mucky North image; it's a cultural desert with a poor city centre..." and, the feature adds, "that's official." It seems that a specially commissioned report has discovered that "Derby has a low profile on the national stage".

Actually, we knew that. But this report comes from "a London firm of strategic analysts". What are strategic analysts? Are they like psychoanalysts? I have no idea, but this I am sure: when these analysts have finished they will send a bill. Their recommendations, meanwhile, will cost more. "Profile on the national stage" does not come cheap. An opera house, perhaps, a major airport, two universities, three teaching hospitals and an international trade fair... these things cost. Most are already available in the larger nearby Midlands cities. Dear old Derby might like to pause and ask herself whether there is an easier way.

There is. Derby could lead the field. You wonder how? Look again at the sentence with which that magazine article began: "Derby is a city..."

Derby is not a city. In all her long and proud history, she has never been a city. Derby is a town: a fine old town, never more, never less. But, since that royal charter during the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977, Derby has

been pretending. The pretence is unconvincing. The gap between the image called up by the word "city" and the modest realities of a redbrick Midlands town is too wide. The problem lies not with Derby, but with the claims made for her.

Our church is a splendid church but a pitiful cathedral. We have no polytechnic and no university: nearby Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester and Sheffield offer plenty of both. A couple of cinemas, a market, the Assembly Rooms and a rather small shopping centre — no square, no fountains — add up to an unassuming conurbation and two parliamentary constituencies. Picture what a town is supposed to be, and Derby leaps out as a solid and imposing example. For a town, facilities are good: and the architecture, though mostly unmemorable, shows swagger enough. Think what a city is supposed to be, and we're on the ropes. Our town has picked a fight she cannot win, with much bigger girls.

What is a city? The presence of a cathedral cannot really be the touchstone, for Ely is not a city, surely. Size alone is not enough. Newcastle is rather small but is obviously a city. Birmingham is enormous but only just manages to be a city these days. Words, like other kinds of coinage, get devalued. The pressures upon words conveying size or status pushes their meaning ever wider, to cover subjects progressively less worthy. Town clerks, having

become borough chief executives without moving from their desks, discover that their next ambition is to be chief executives on city councils. Now Croxson wants to be a city, and so does Brighton.

The day will come — Blackpool, Cleethorpes and Skegness having become cities too — when the term means so little that Derby need no longer blush. But, rather than wait for the word to be drained of meaning and consigned to the dustbin where "esquire" and "lady" languish already, is there any hope of plucking "city" from the grave's edge? After all, "metropolis" has been retrieved from the wreckage of a local government reorganisation that temporarily made Barnsley (bless us) part of a "metropolitan" area. A rescue for "city" may not be too late.

I propose that Liverpool, Bristol, Leeds, Birmingham, London, Manchester and Newcastle be allowed to continue as English cities; but we give thought to whether Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield might apply: for historic cathedral towns such as York; and explain — kindly but firmly — to all the others that being a town is nothing to be ashamed of.

No city, yet, so far as I know, has applied for permission from the palace to hand its royal charter back. I should be proud if Derby were the first. This year is our 15th anniversary of being a city. "Tried it once but didn't like it" would be a fair epitaph.

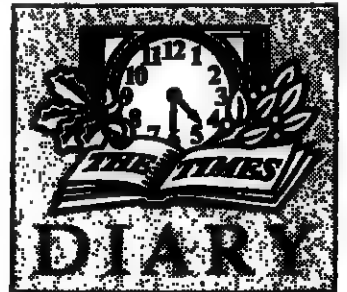
## Campaign fall-out

WHATEVER the outcome of the election, some key members of the Tory campaign team have already decided to wash their hands of politics on April 10. The exodus is likely to be led by Shaun Woodward, 33, the former *Thatcher's Life* producer and overall campaign director who has indicated he wants to fight only one general election. Unless the campaign is seen to have improved soon, Woodward is likely to be made the scapegoat and will not have much choice in the matter.

David Cameron, one of the brightest young people in the party, has decided to quit politics at the tender age of 25. Up at 4.45am each day, Cameron is one of the leading members of the "brat pack" helping to run the campaign. He briefs both John Major and Chris Patten before the daily press conferences, and had hoped to become one of Major's two political secretaries. But Major decided to appoint only one and the job went to Jonathan Hill, a member of the Downing Street policy unit. Cameron is hoping to pursue a career in national journalism.

Sir John Lacy, the veteran general director of campaigning, has also decided enough is enough. At 64, he is the only one of the three directors to have election experience, having worked for the Tories since 1950. Andrew Lansley, director of the research department, is expected to go voluntarily after becoming increasingly isolated at Central Office and embroiled in a tiff with Downing Street after rewriting parts of the manifesto at the printers in Derby when he was supposed to be proof reading.

Angie Bray, 38, handpicked by



Patten to act as his personal press officer, will give in her notice at the end of the campaign and return to the private sector, as will Mary Bartholomew, brought in by Woodward to overhaul the press office. The performance of the 25-strong press office has been heavily criticised. Bartholomew, unlike the Labour and Liberal Democrat press chiefs, does not talk to the press.

A Tory councillor was far from satisfied that the discovery of seven condoms in Edinburgh city chambers, after a celebration of International Women's Day earlier this month, was nothing more than a practical joke. Councillor Carol Benn demanded an official investigation, alleging that there had been impropriety at poll-tax payers' expense. The condoms were sent for scientific analysis, which concluded that the condoms had not been used for "sexual or sexually related purposes". The bill for exonerating council officials has arrived: £4,000.

## Notes for a war

CRYPTIC notes about the battle for the Falklands, used by the chief of the defence staff to brief the war cabinet, go on public show for the first time next week. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin has lent the

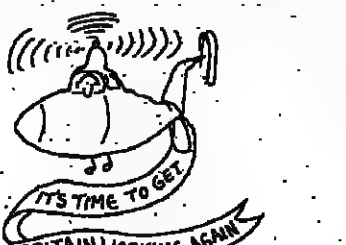
notebook to an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum marking the tenth anniversary of the campaign.

Not even Mrs Thatcher, who chaired the meetings, has seen the neat notes, in pencil or green ink, that were Lewin's aide-memoire at the twice-daily meetings. Lewin says: "I took notes so I knew exactly what I was going to tell the war cabinet. The book contains the cryptic notes I took at the time of the speculation over whether the task force was carrying nuclear weapons or not. You will not be able to tell from the notes whether we did or we didn't. And I am not telling you now."

Cecil Parkinson, a member of the war cabinet, says of Lewin: "Even when he was bringing us bad news from that notebook he was immensely reassuring. I was barely even conscious that he referred to notes. It will be fascinating to see what he had written."

## Taking flight

LABOUR's well-oiled campaign slipped a little on Friday during John Smith's visit to Ipswich to promote Labour's plans to create jobs. The shadow chancellor was due to make a grand entrance by



helicopter at Ipswich airport. At the last moment his arrival was switched because aides realised the Labour controlled borough council planned to close the airport, with a resulting loss of jobs. Smith landed instead in the grounds of a hotel on the other side of the town. He was driven to an engineering factory just across the road from the airport, then all the way back to his helicopter. Trevor Seymour, of Ipswich Flying School, said: "My secretary took a call from a charter company asking if Mr Smith's helicopter could pick him up here. We said there was no problem, but they rang back and said there was: over the council closing the airport."

## Holbein hopeful

LORD Cholmondeley, owner of Holbein's *Portrait of a Woman with a Squirrel*, is expected to make a decision today on whether to sell it to the National Gallery. Last week the gallery confirmed there had been negotiations with Cholmondeley over the painting. The peer's friends expect him to agree to a reported new offer of £10 million cash, an increase of £2 million in the past week.

Christie's was expected to auction the picture on April 15. But a sale at auction would mean a hefty tax bill for Cholmondeley, and a large commission fee. By agreeing to an offer from the National Gallery he would avoid tax under the "douceur" system, which encourages owners to sell privately to national institutions.

Forget advertising, rope in cabbies. Olympia & York — at present trying to sort out its parlous finances — is taking London taxi drivers to the top of Canary Wharf in the hope that their spiel to passengers on the development might prove an asset.





## THE ORANGE CARD

The next parliament promises to be a great opportunity for the Celtic fringe. No longer content to be bought off with huge subventions of public money, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland seem likely on April 9 to reject more emphatically than ever before "colonial" rule from Westminster and demand a more specific say in their own government. Only Northern Ireland has previously enjoyed anything like partial autonomy. That was taken from it with the collapse of the power-sharing initiative in 1974. Could 1992 see a return from direct rule to some form of local democratic rule?

Nothing concentrates the political mind on such questions quite so much as the prospect of a hung parliament, and nowhere more directly than in Ulster. Already statements from both the Unionist parties have indicated an awareness of their imminent significance. If the Tories emerge as the largest party but still short of an overall majority, they will have little choice but either to invite the Ulster Unionists to state their terms or to dare the same group to do its worst. The Unionists must equally judge whether tacit support for a Tory government, however distasteful some of its policies, is not preferable to putting in the Labour Party, with its even more distasteful policies.

Already, Tory signals have been sent across the Irish Sea that if this day ever arrives, the Unionists should not be too greedy. Answering signals have come back that the message has been heard. A parliamentary alliance with the nine-member Official Unionists, the independent James Kilfoyle and Ian Paisley's three Democratic Unionist MPs would be a difficult juggling act. But though the Unionists represent a faction in a deeply divided society, a temporary and informal arrangement need not be disreputable for the Tories. A finite period of mutual dependence between mainland Tories and their estranged Ulster cousins could even prove the catalyst of real change.

The British interest lies in a new democratic administration in Northern Ireland,

with some Catholic involvement and with as much devotion from Westminster as possible. All Irish interests likely to take part in post-election talks agree on these objectives. Continued violence generates too much communal bitterness for this community to be acknowledged publicly. It is previous searches for a magic formula have foundered on sectarian fear of compromise. Because of that, a British government will sooner or later have to impose the best devolution package it can devise.

John Major has already stated that a straightforward demand from the Unionists for the "removal of the Anglo-Irish Agreement", as a condition for their support in parliament, would be unacceptable. In this he was right. Such removal may be the Unionists' ambition, but it is not marked non-negotiable and is quite capable of being fudged. The Anglo-Irish Agreement should be replaced by a wider British-Irish Agreement, say the Unionists in their manifesto. The vagueness of these concepts is encouraging. There may be some unfreezing of the Unionist position here at last.

Mr Major's best offer would appear to be to put the Anglo-Irish Agreement "on the table" in the all-party talks promised after the election. There may be a nod and wink that the Tories will talk to the new Irish prime minister about altering those symbolic aspects of the Anglo-Irish Agreement which Unionists find so offensive, while keeping the functional aspects working.

This may not seem much, but the Unionists must make their calculations with one eye on the alternatives. If they bring down the Tories, they will have to deal with Labour. Peter Brooke or any likely alternative Tory secretary of state will look a better prospect to Northern Ireland's embattled Protestants than Kevin McNamara, Labour's likely choice. Fanciful perhaps, but a Tory-led hung parliament could be the one hope of unjamming Northern Ireland's politics. If that might in turn and one of Westminster's worst legacies from the 1970s and 80s, it would be an achievement indeed.

## RECOVERY IN PROPERTY

Two unrelated incidents came together last week to create an impression of impending doom in the commercial property market. Olympia & York were forced to stitch together an emergency package with their bankers. At the same time, Heron Corporation announced that its debt of £1.3 billion will require refinancing. City bears claim that these and other present property difficulties are worse even than those of 1974-75, which briefly threatened to destroy not just property companies, but much of the financial system.

The two companies at present in the news are different. Olympia & York's problems stem more from North America than from Britain. Here the company is vulnerable because of a single office development, Canary Wharf, and the difficulty of transporting people to and from its isolated East End site. Heron holds industrial rather than office property, and its travails are more the fault of bad luck than bad management.

But the plight of these two, and of the other fallen giants, have fundamental causes in common. The demand for property has been fractured by recession, in Britain and elsewhere. High interest rates bear hard on an industry that is capital-intensive and, in some cases, highly geared. The government's uniform business rate means that an empty property can cost a developer £15 a square foot. With 13 million of 70 million square feet of space in the City empty, and rents down 25 per cent from their peak, the pipes are squeaking.

The consequences for the banks are serious. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, wisely warned of reckless lending to property companies as early as May 1987. But when bankers' noses sniff the perfume of profit, their ears cease to listen. Bank loans to property companies

total at least £40 billion today compared with £7 billion in 1985.

This will cost the banks and their shareholders dear. But the situation remains less serious than it was in 1974. Then the lending was funnelled through the fringe banks, which were free from effective regulation. Under the 1979 Banking Act all banks are now properly supervised. In 1974 most of the money involved was British. Today Britain shares its burden with foreign banks, from the United States, Japan, and (in the case of Olympia & York) Canada. In 1974, politicians made matters worse. Reacting to the boom years, Edward Heath froze business rates, while Labour threatened property companies with a new tax on capital values. Today, the politicians, who pursued a policy of benign neglect during the boom, are continuing to pursue a policy of benign neglect during the slump.

Whichever party wins the election could be tempted to change that. Under the Tories, Michael Heseltine's new Urban Regeneration Agency, chaired by Peter Walker, could easily become an instrument for state-backed rescue of troubled development projects. Intervention might tempt Labour too, as the banks beg inexperienced ministers to bail them out of their plight.

They deserve not a penny. Instead, they should be pressed to make adequate provisions against potential property losses. The most injudicious lenders should suffer the normal penalties that attach to financial failure: shareholder rebellion, takeover, and the sacking of incompetent management. The role of government should be confined to getting the macroeconomic climate right. Property's fortunes are a normal indicator of the economy. They can be restored only by economic recovery and a lower level of real interest rates. Swift may they be in coming.

## CAMFORD COMPARISONS

The news that independent researchers have demonstrated that Oxford is a better university than Cambridge will come as no surprise to Oxonians. They have been saying so for centuries. There needs no social scientist, come from a computer lab, to tell us this. As the Brasenose admissions tutor told the candidate who was worried she might not get the necessary A-levels: "Never mind: there's always Cambridge."

The rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge runs deep in English idiosyncrasy. Oxford's image of itself is of floral waistcoats, political sophistication and style; Cambridge is jeans, test tubes and inconclusive conversations about the meaning of life. Oxford is Cavalier and produces prime ministers, Cambridge is Roundhead and indoctrinates the Inland Revenue. At Oxford the school of modern history begins with the fall of Constantinople and Anglo-Saxon lies at the root of a degree in English literature; Cambridge is a science park and structuralist decomposition of the modern novel.

These ancient myths and prejudices are not in fact what the social scientists (from the universities of Sussex and Kent) have been measuring for the past five years. Their work, to be published in May and proclaimed as the first comparative study of the two senior English universities for 30 years, is concerned with the modern shibboleth of market forces. It is said to demonstrate that Oxford attracts more research grants, is less dependent on government money, and is years ahead of Cambridge in reorganising itself on professional managerial lines, as approved by the schools of business studies.

The heresy that you can quantify the value of education by monetary inputs is as

preposterous as the fetish of mortarboards and subfusc. The quality of good academics is measured not by the number of publications or students, nor by any other quantifiable calculation, nor even by whether they are at Oxford or Cambridge. It is the quality of the research and teaching that matters. As in schools, that is the "value added". And this in turn must be in part a value judgment to be made by an academic's peers and students, not reflected in a statistic. The corollary of such a survey would be simply to measure average incomes of students and staff from Oxford as against Cambridge, and what an outcry that would provoke.

Original research and good teaching cannot be measured, but that does not mean they cannot be recognised. Cambridge and Oxford, for reasons of their long history, offer the advantages (and disadvantages) of collegiate and tutorial systems. Some of their quainter medieval administration is being modernised. It is a matter of national pride that work that is internationally recognised as the best in so many fields, from biochemistry to archaeology, is still coming from British universities.

Nor need it be a matter of shame that so many products of these universities find fulfilment for part of their careers abroad, despite the moans of scientists writing elsewhere on this page. There are plenty of Americans working happily in Britain, escaping the commercial pressures that so consume the time of many academics in America. British universities are the most cosmopolitan in the world. And if one reason for this is rivalry between the two leading institutions, however fatuously measured, so much the better for competition.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Why scientists have quit Britain

From the Chairman of British Scientists Abroad and others

Sir, As members of British Scientists Abroad we are following the election in Britain very closely. We would like, through your columns, to comment on one of the key issues of the campaign — whether to borrow for personal tax cuts or public investment — from the point of view of research scientists and engineers working abroad.

John Major, in an interview on the *Walden* programme on March 22 and on other occasions, has argued that tax cuts are the way to give young people the incentive to stay and work in Britain, and that tax increases on higher incomes would drive professionals abroad and thereby induce a "brain drain".

In fact, over the last decade there has been a steady "drain" of many of Britain's talented scientists and engineers to various parts of the world, above all the United States. In our organisation alone there are almost 2,000 expatriate scientists, ranging from some of Britain's most distinguished and senior scientists, including Fellows of the Royal Society, to junior scientists who have left the country frustrated by the lack of research opportunities. Many have expressed a desire to return if conditions were to improve.

Most of those scientists and engineers have left Britain to work abroad not because of the tax regime but because higher education and research as a whole has been systematically undervalued and neglected over the past 13 years. Neither investment in research nor investment in people has been sustained at competitive levels. The result is that conditions for productive and successful work are more readily found abroad than in the UK.

Britain still has some of the world's best scientists and researchers until it has a government that under-

stands their true motivation, and is prepared to demonstrate a real commitment to investment in science, it will never restore their morale nor turn back the brains that have been lost.

Yours faithfully,  
JORDAN RAFF, Chairman,  
British Scientists Abroad,  
University of California  
San Francisco,  
(Biochemistry and Biophysics),  
KIM BARRETT,  
UC San Diego (Medicine),  
PETER WADSWORTH,  
Stanford University  
(Mechanical Engineering),  
STEPHEN DELANEY,  
University of Queensland  
(Molecular Biology and Biotechnology),  
MICHAEL DUFF,  
Texas A & M University (Physics),  
MATTHEW FREEMAN,  
UC Berkeley  
(Molecular and Cell Biology),  
MARITHA GRABER,  
UC San Francisco  
(Pharmaceutical Chemistry),  
GREG HALLEWELL,  
Centre de Physique des  
Particules de Marseille,  
ADRIAN HAYDAY,  
Yale University (Immunobiology),  
RICHARD HYNES,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
(Center for Cancer Research),  
ANGUS LAMOND, Heidelberg (Europe-  
an Molecular Biology Laboratory),  
NIALL MATTEER,  
University of California  
(Office of the President),  
TIM MITCHISON,  
UC San Francisco (Pharmacology),  
KIM NASHWITZ, Vienna  
(Institute of Molecular Pathology),  
ERIC SHOOTER, Stanford University  
Medical School (Neurobiology),  
ANNE TREISMAN,  
UC Berkeley (Psychology),  
TREVOR WILLIAMS,  
Yale University (Biology),  
University of California,  
San Francisco,  
California 94143,  
March 25.

### State of dentistry and patients' teeth

From Professor G. B. Winter

Sir, The statement in your leader ("Decay of the dentist", March 25) that "children today are virtual strangers to cavities and fillings" is wrong. Such good fortune does not apply to approximately 20 per cent of British children who still have relatively high levels of dental disease. Many of these children are to be found amongst the families of low socio-economic groups in our major cities.

London has a particular problem at the moment, for not only does it have a discernible population of socially deprived children with high levels of dental disease but it also has the lowest take-up rate of young children now being cared for by NHS general dental practitioners in England and Wales on a capitation basis. The latter system was inaugurated in 1990 and provides an annual fee for the dental care of children in the general dental service.

At the end of December 1991, for children aged three to five years, figures from the Dental Practice Board show that for the City and east London only 32 per cent were registered with a dentist, 34 per cent in Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster and 38 per cent in Camden and Islington. Comparative figures from other large cities are 66 per cent in Leeds, 63 per cent in Manchester and 53 per cent in Coventry.

Yours faithfully,  
G. B. WINTER,  
Institute of Dental Surgery,  
Eastman Dental Hospital,  
Department of Children's Dentistry,  
256 Gray's Inn Road, WC1,  
March 26.

From Dr G. D. J. Rhodes

Sir, The government is proud of its record of privatisation but seems "frit" to speak the truth about NHS dental treatment for paying adults. It has already privatised the system.

Patients are paying 75 per cent of the cost of total funding, not just of actual treatment — practice equipment, staff, etc., all come out of these fees and there is no central funding of practice overheads. The government is happy to call a public industry private when it has put 51 per cent of its shares in the people's hands. Why the nonsense about "NHS" dental care?

For the vast majority of the population who cannot afford full private fees the only way forward lies in low-cost insurance schemes, providing top-quality treatment for the patient and giving the practitioner the security to budget for his equipment.

The negotiating committees of the British Dental Association still harken to the past — hence their acceptance of the new NHS contract over the heads of the vast majority of practitioners who voted against it in a secret ballot. Could this madness

happen in any other profession? No one would want to spend five or six years at university to practice in the present environment.

Yours faithfully,  
G. D. J. RHODES,  
Esperance,  
Langton Road, Langton Green,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,  
March 26.

From Mr G. E. Swan

Sir, Your leader suggests that NHS dentistry should concentrate on prevention. This is exactly the policy adopted under the capitation arrangements now in place for treating children.

After an initial entry payment the dentist is paid a fixed fee for each child. The dentist has a strong incentive to ensure that patients remain decay-free because there are no fees payable for routine fillings.

The problem with this approach is that children requiring extensive treatment are a disaster for the dentist who, in financial terms, is better employed by tending to the dentally fit. By concentrating on prevention the NHS has overlooked the fact that priority must be given to treating the sick.

Yours sincerely,  
G. E. SWAN,  
23 Dean Street,  
Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan,  
March 25.

From Mr Stephen Noar

Sir, Your leader is right to emphasise that prevention is "the watchword" of patient care in the ideal modern dental practice. However, there is a danger of persisting dependence on piecemeal, both in the NHS, where the continuing care element is greatly underfunded, and in the move towards private treatment.

Such dependence encourages the "universally deplored drill-and-fill" to which you refer and undermines efforts to move away from treatment-based dentistry, the ultimate victim being the oral health of the nation.

The ideal is of course an adequately funded continuing care programme, where the dentist is rewarded for prevention rather than repair. This is akin to the Chinese philosophy where doctors are paid to keep their patients well, rather than rewarded for treatment in the event of illness.

Jersey has successfully established a fully preventive programme where the costs of private care are shared between state and patient. Such a move in the UK, which harmonises the interests of patient, dentist and state in a progressive preventive framework, has much to commend it.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN NOAR (Chairman),  
Denplan Ltd.,  
Kings Court, The Broadway,  
Winchester, Hampshire,  
March 25.

### Catholic teaching

From Mr Kenneth P. Platt

Sir, Roman Catholics who have been awaiting the publication of the new *Universal Catechism* for some months now will be somewhat taken aback at your report (March 26) that the newly appointed auxiliary bishop in north London has "disclosed" what has been public knowledge for some years now. They will be more than taken aback at the suggestion in your headline ("Pope revises Catholic guidelines on morality") that the Pope intends to revise Catholic moral teaching, for of course he neither has the desire nor indeed the authority to do that.

Further, of course, if the Pope in fact sees the Vatican response to the final report of ARCC I (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) as a step forward, it can only be in so far as that response provides a sounder basis for further inter-Church discussions than has hitherto been provided, calling for elucidation of ambiguities in the report and clarifying the Roman stance as being that so clearly defined in Canon John McNamara's letter (February 13).

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH PLATT,  
47 Heathurst Road,  
Sanderstead, Surrey,  
March 26.

### Large salaries

From Mr J. R. Anderson

Sir, Regarding the discussion of the large salary increase of the chairman of British Gas (letters, March 27), I suggest that the only people who are in a position to impose restraint in such cases are the institutional shareholders, and that they would be well advised to exercise that responsibility without delay in the present instance.

Yours sincerely,  
J. R. ANDERSON,  
4 Vardon Drive,  
Wilmslow, Cheshire.

### Under wraps

From Mr Richard J. Stamper

Sir, In Liz Hodgkinson's article, "Cut down in size" (March 25), it states that to receive information from the Tall Persons Club one needs to send a "large s.a.e.". How large?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD J. STAMPER,  
24 Norland Square,  
Holland Park, W11,  
March 25.

### Crystal Palace park

From the Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission

Sir, Occasionally it may be justified to finance the restoration of an historic designed park by the insertion of a new building into it. To succeed without spoiling the park, such a building and its ancillary car parks and service areas need to be sited in a way which respects the spatial integrity of the design of the original park, its composition of open spaces and distant rural views. If this is achieved, there is no reason why the new building should not be a fine late 20th century work of art in its own right.

An example currently being considered is Crystal Palace, where parts of Paxton's park have survived the famous building for which it was laid out in 1852-7. It seems eminently sensible to erect a new building on the same site as its long-dead predecessor.

Ideally the new structure would be a modern example of high-tech architecture to catch the eye in the same bold spirit as Paxton's daring original. Present proposals, a partly scaled-down mimicry of some superficial Victoriana, are exactly the opposite.

English Heritage should at the same time spring to the defence of the original park layout, which they have listed Grade II\*. This should be restored in its original form right up to the edge of the modern building, avoiding any half-baked pastiche flowerbeds.

Historic parks are a vital part of English Heritage's remit, whether including historic listed buildings or surviving on their own.

Yours faithfully,  
ST JOHN OF FAWLEY,  
Chairman,  
The Royal Fine Art Commission,  
7 St James's Square, SW1,  
March 26.

### Nuclear accidents

From Mr John H. Deam

Sir, Whilst not wishing to detract from the force of the letter (March 25) from the Director of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons in which he speculates on the consequences of the St Petersburg nuclear accident, I look forward to the day when you will publish a letter from some mythical Director of the Medical Campaign Against Motor Vehicles which so far have killed 17 million people, saying: "How many accidents, and they will continue to occur, do we need before all motor vehicle usage is shut down and the best scientific brains we have are assembled to find out if the motor-vehicle genie, or most of it, can be sufficed back in the bottle which, with the benefit of hindsight, our leaders were so unwise as to uncork?"

Yours sincerely,  
J. H. DEAM,  
94 Northam Road,  
Westbury on Trym, Bristol, Avon,  
March 25.

### Mortgage arrears

From Ms Sarah Jenkinson

Sir, Consumer advice on precipitous repossession by mortgage lenders (Rachel Kelly's article, *Life & Times*, March 18) although crucial is only one part of the solution: the major shift has to be structural.

My proposal in "Repossessed: a fresh look at mortgage lending" is for a House-Owners' Council, which would be responsible not only for consumer information and protection but also for market efficiency. It would operate on the basis of a code elaborated by lenders, much as the Council of Mortgage Lenders elaborates guidelines for its membership.

The difference would be that the House-Owners' Council's code would embrace all mortgage lenders rather than just those with CML membership, would include input from the major consumer organisations, and would have statutory force.

This would appear to be the only mechanism for ensuring that the best practice by mortgage lenders becomes general practice.

Yours sincerely,  
SARAH JENKINSON,  
Catholic Housing Aid Society,  
189a Old Brompton Road, SW5,  
March 20.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

### Sale of County Hall

From Sir Ian McLeod

Sir, I feel a keen sense of disappointment at the possibility of County Hall being purchased by a Japanese consortium, to be turned into a hotel, apartments and business and conference centre (report, March 24).

After the abolition of the Greater London Council one looked at that unique building on one of the finest and most splendid sites in Europe and speculated whether it would become the home of something worthy of its position — perhaps an art gallery, teaching hospital or a university.

One has only to look a mile upriver at the old Battersea power station, which, too, is a listed building, to see what could happen if things go wrong. It stands forlorn, roofed and deteriorating after plans had been made for a leisure centre. After all, County Hall never was, or meant to be, just another office block to be sold. A far greater dimension in dignity and vision is necessary in planning for its future use.

I do understand that the London Residuary Body, which controls County Hall, has a duty to obtain the best possible price — but at what price? Have those responsible for such a philistine decision no sense of balancing money against a sense of civic and national pride?

The efforts of the London School of Economics to acquire this site seem to me wholly admirable and in tune with the needs of society. The LSE could be in there and running within months, rather than the years it would take to tear apart County Hall to make it habitable for other purposes.

The opportunity for this famous seat of learning to expand and provide for thousands of students into the next century surely far outweighs the need for yet another hotel.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN McLEOD,  
Pine Ridge, Pine Coombe,  
Shirley Hills, Croydon, Surrey,  
March 25.

### Women lawyers

From the Registrar of Criminal Appeals and Master of the Crown Office

Sir, I was interested to read Deborah Wolfson's account (March 24) of the very limited efforts being made by solicitors' firms to prevent the waste of the talent of women lawyers, and the exclusion of part-timers from consideration for partnerships.

In this office, which is part of the Lord Chancellor's department, there are 15 male lawyers and 13 female lawyers. Three of the women work part-time, by their own choice. No

one is excluded from consideration for promotion and women (including two of the part-timers) hold five of the nine senior posts.

These arrangements work admirably. Women lawyers who want a fair deal throughout their working lives might well consider that they would be better off in the government legal service.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MCKENZIE,  
Registrar of Criminal Appeals  
and Master of the Crown Office,  
Royal Courts of Justice,  
Strand, WC2,  
March 25.

Mozart by that founder member of the Cellists' Liberation Movement, King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES CHALMERS PARK,  
Rivelin, Hillside Road,  
Pinner Hill, Middlesex,  
March 24.

From Mr Neil C. Dewhurst

Sir, I shall be looking out for K 364 SIN (Sinfonia Concertante in E flat, K 620 MAG (*Die Zauberflöte*) and K 621 TIT (*La Clemenza di Tito*) among many which have given me considerable pleasure in bicentenary year.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL C. DEWHURST,  
50 Bantocks Road,  
Great Walsingham,  
Sudbury, Suffolk.







## OBITUARIES

## EARL SPENCER

Earl Spencer, LVO, DL, 8th earl and father of the Princess of Wales, died yesterday aged 68. He was born on January 24, 1924.

SOME men are born famous, others achieve fame, but few have it thrust upon them so forcibly as this amiable peer. His distinction reflected the fame of his immediate family.

Earl Spencer's daughter, Diana, became the Princess of Wales in 1981. It was his deportment, still affected by a stroke he had sustained three years before, on the day of her marriage to the Prince of Wales on July 29, 1981, that gave him a place in the hearts of the nation. Although weak and still unsteady on his feet, he conducted himself with courage and determination during a long and exhausting day of pageantry which involved him in escorting his daughter up the long aisle of St Paul's Cathedral and standing on the cathedral steps after the ceremony.

Contact with the Royal family was, of course, nothing new to Earl Spencer. In the 1950s he had been an equerry successively to King George VI and the Queen. As such he had accompanied the Queen on the Commonwealth tour which was one of principal features of the early part of her reign.

Other aspects of his family life did not give such unalloyed pleasure as his youngest daughter's marriage. His son, Lord Althorp, soon developed an impetuous public personality of his own and was rarely out of the newspapers. And his second wife, the novelist Barbara Cartland's daughter, Raine, was a powerful figure whose devotion to her husband never wavered, even if to outsiders it often seemed to be domination.

That this devotion to her husband could be a force for his own good never reconciled her to her stepchildren. She saved his life in 1978 by procuring a new, untested drug to treat his stroke. Her redecoration and aggressive marketing of what might have been a steadily decaying stately home at Althorp in Northamptonshire brought it a new pro-



Enduring partnership: Earl and Countess Spencer among their art treasures at Althorp

perity and dynamism. But this too increased family unhappiness at Lady Spencer's ascendancy, which became desperate as the couple began selling off family heirlooms, sales that reached what many conservationists a crisis in 1991.

Edward John ("Johnny") Spencer was the only son of parents whose families had long served as courtiers. Known as Lord Althorp until his father died in 1975, he was educated at Eton and Sandhurst and subsequently joined the Royal

Scots Greys. Though his military career was brief, he was mentioned in dispatches during the second world war.

From 1947 to 1950 he was ADC to the Governor of South Australia. In 1950 he became equerry to George VI, continuing in the post until 1954 under the present Queen. He joined the Queen's Commonwealth tour of 1953-54 as equerry and acting Master of the Household. A keen amateur cameraman, he filmed many of the

tour's events. On his return to Britain he showed the film around Norfolk with a running commentary of his own, raising £2,500 for charity.

In June 1954 he married the Hon Frances Roche, daughter of the 4th Lord Fermoy, and subsequently settled down to farm near Sandringham. In Northamptonshire, where Althorp is situated, he served as High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant. In Norfolk he sat on the bench and the local council. A more court-

post was his chairmanship of the Schoolmistresses' and Governors' Benevolent Institution from 1962, though it was appropriate in view of his youngest daughter's later employment at a Pinco kindergarten.

In 1969 the Althorps were divorced. He obtained custody of the children and struggled to bring them up alone. His second marriage with Raine, divorced wife of Lord Dartmouth, followed their shared involvement in European Heritage Year in 1975.

Lord and Lady Spencer — it became impossible to regard their activities separately — threw themselves energetically into showing Althorp to the public. The guide book was a joint effort: his remarkably professional photography, her elusive text. They had already collaborated on a pamphlet entitled *What is Our Heritage?* with colleagues in 1975. They installed a wine mart at Althorp and introduced "own-label" wines. A particular bid was made to attract Japanese package tours and conferences. The exercise was reminiscent of some of the Duke of Bedford's earlier commercial efforts at Woburn. While it had its purist detractors, such entrepreneurship is at least one way of ensuring that such great houses can survive in private hands.

But death duties as well as Althorp's upkeep remained a problem. The Spencers sold valuable paintings and other possessions, challenging those who believe that every house must be forced to retain all its existing works of art, irrespective of financial shortages. Art historians rate the Althorp collection highly, but it remains one of the finest in private hands and Earl Spencer's sales can hardly be described as catastrophic.

Earl Spencer's eldest daughter, Sara Lavinia, married, in 1980, Neil Edmund McCorquodale; his second daughter, Jane, married, in 1978, Sir Robert Bellamy, KCVO, CB, Private Secretary to the Queen. His son and heir, who now succeeds him, married in 1989, the former model Victoria Lockwood; they have one daughter.

## JAMES WEBB

James Edwin Webb, who managed the space programme that led to the first manned landing on the moon in 1969, died of heart failure in Washington on March 27 aged 85. He was born in Granville County, North Carolina, on October 7, 1906.

WHEN President John F. Kennedy vowed, on taking office in 1961, that "this country is dedicated to landing men on the moon and returning them safely within the decade", it is doubtful that he knew what he was promising. The task was immense. In terms of complexity and the exploration of unknown scientific frontiers, there had been nothing like it since the Manhattan Project produced the first atomic bomb. James Webb was the man appointed to fulfil the promise.

At the time, Webb was a private businessman, working as a director and assistant to the president of an Oklahoma oil company. His qualifications to become head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration seemed minimal. He had, it was true, been in government service before: President Truman had named him as director of the Bureau of the Budget from 1946 to 1949, and he had served as under secretary of state to Dean Acheson from 1949 to 1952. But with the coming of the Eisenhower administration he yielded to the American system of political patronage and retired to the corporate boardroom.

He was a lawyer by education, the son of a rural school superintendent. His only connection with science and aviation had been a brief spell as a pilot in the Marine Corps from 1930 to 1932, and work as personnel director and treasurer of the Sperry Gyroscope Company in the immediate pre-war years. He had graduated from George Washington University and been admitted to the District of Columbia bar in 1936.

With America still in a state of shock following the surprise launching of the Sput-

nik satellite by the Soviet Union in 1958, Webb was the man chosen to lead the space race. As it turned out, President Kennedy had made a wise choice. With his even temper, his willingness to delegate, and his talent for inspiring loyalty among his staff, Webb soon proved the ideal man for the job. Few others could have pulled together the disparate elements of science, engineering, politics and finance necessary to achieve the goal. He was a shy man, shunning media attention and even staying away from spacecraft launches, but under his leadership NASA began to catch up with and then surpass the Soviet achievements.

The first American manned space flight, by Alan Shepard, was followed swiftly by John Glenn's first orbit in the Mercury programme, the first two-man flights and the first walk in space by Edward H. White. In addition to the manned programme, Webb's eight year tenure at NASA also included unmanned flights to observe Mars and Venus, the development of weather and communications satellites, and a host of technical innovations in aviation.

More than any other factor, Webb's management style was credited with defeating the Soviet Union in the race to the moon. Ironically, however, he was not present for the grand finale. When President Richard Nixon took office in 1969 he wanted his own political appointee in charge of NASA, and Webb stepped down a few months before the triumphant Apollo launch to make room for his deputy, Thomas Paine.

In later years Webb served on the President's Council on Equal Employment Opportunities and headed the Frontiers of Science Foundation. He was a member of numerous boards and committees, ranging from McDonnell Aircraft and the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies to the National Civil Service League.

James Webb is survived by Patsy, his wife of 53 years, a son and a daughter.

## NANCY WALKER

Nancy Walker, American television actress, died of lung cancer at her home in Studio City, California, on March 25 aged 69. She was born in Philadelphia on May 10, 1922.

NANCY Walker had a talent to make people laugh which showed itself very early in life. Born Anna Myrtle Swower to vaudeville performers, she slept in the wings while her mother and father were on stage. At the age of ten months she crawled into the spotlight and stole the show. From that point there was no looking back.

Her choice of a stage name was almost accidental. In 1942, seeking her first Broadway role in the Richard Rogers comedy *Best Foot Forward*, she was introduced at the audition as Miss Walker. Rodgers and his producer George Abbott had been expecting a singer named Helen Walker to audition for a minor five-line role. But their minds were changed when Nancy belted out a song *Bounce Me Brother With a Solid Four*. She not only got the part but it was re-written into a leading role. The 19 year old became an instant success and from that time on her name was Walker.

She spent the first 30 years of her acting career on the New York stage and claimed that she never knew she could be a comedian until she started getting laughs in *Best Foot Forward*. Many comedy

parts followed, including starring roles in *On the Town*, *Pal Joey*, and *Look Ma, I'm Dancing*, and several Hollywood films made under a seven year MGM contract. With her long face and red hair, Nancy Walker was never a ravishing beauty; but she had the talent to stay in the public eye for five decades. Nor was her ability confined to acting. She became one of the very few women to direct and act on Broadway and in television.

In 1956 she made her Broadway directing debut with *UTBU*, starring Thelma Ritter and Tony Randall, and during the 1970s she directed episodes of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Rhoda*, and *Ally*. Her specialty was playing loud-mouthed housekeepers and mothers-in-law, notably in the television series *Rhoda* and *McMillan and Wife*, both of which earned her Emmy nominations.

Her most recent work was a starring role in the Fox television sitcom *True Colours*, the last episode of which was completed just before her death. Many American viewers, however, will remember her best as *Rhoda*, the waitress forever wiping up after comical customers in an advertisement for a well known brand of paper towels; she saw nothing to be ashamed of in commercial appearances. Nancy Walker is survived by her husband, David Craig, and one daughter.

John Herbert Babington, GC, OBE, former bomb-disposal specialist and headmaster, died on March 24 aged 81. He was born on February 6, 1911.

JOHN Babington was a strong, quiet man taken by the demands of war from the teaching of physics to his practice in dismantling unexploded bombs. His persistent courage in dismantling dangerously booby-trapped bombs which had already claimed the lives of colleagues earned him the George Cross in 1940 and appointment as OBE (military) in 1943.

Babington was born in Tai Chow Foo, China, the son of medical missionary parents. On his return to Leicester he attended the Wyggeston School. Declining to follow the family tradition of church or medicine, he read physics at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. The war found him teaching physics at King's College School, Wimbledon. Although his family was devoid of maritime tradition he volunteered for the submarine service but was rejected, presumably because of his great height (6ft 3in). Instead he opted for a quiet life in bomb disposal.

His most dangerous operation was a mine which had brought Chatham Dockyard to a standstill in December 1940. It was believed to be protected by an anti-handling device of a kind which had already killed another officer. The suspect of the mine had driven it 16 feet underground. Babington, by his stage temporary acting sub-lieutenant, RNVR, volunteered to deal with it and prepared the fuse for removal. It could have detonated at any time. The line which he attached to the fuse to remove it broke. Eventually he had to be lowered three times into the 16ft pit before his attempts succeeded and the bomb could be lifted and taken away.



He spent the rest of the war in dangerous tinkering and teaching such skills to others, and was appointed military OBE in 1943, once more for "coolness and courage in operations involving great risk to himself".

After the war he returned to education as assistant education officer in Hertfordshire, becoming headmaster of Diss Grammar School in 1947. In 1951 he became the headmaster of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook, a magnificent naval establishment, fully equipped with cannon and training mast, but then devoted to the relatively perfunctory academic education of the orphans of ratings of the Royal Navy. His mission to turn it into the substantial educational establishment which it has now become

did not initially find favour with the authorities who jibbed even at the provision of facilities and funds.

Babington did not win that battle and left in 1955 to become headmaster of Ashby's School, Leicestershire, a secondary modern school which, before its transfer to the county, had been the rural incarnation of the Foundling Hospital's School. As at Holbrook much charitable money had been lavished on splendid architecture; once again his role was to turn buildings into a school. He left it a showpiece comprehensive on his retirement 25 years later.

John Babington's manner was dignified but warm; his speech careful, humorous, even ponderous. A lifelong churchgoer of low church tastes, he was a lay reader for many years. He followed the dictates of conscience with the same logical rigour and punctilio with which he removed fuses from bombs. He never cut corners and never bent rules, sometimes to his considerable disadvantage. He was preserved from sanctimony by his belief that his place was with the public rather than with the Pharisees — a conviction which extended from communion rail to saloon bar. His anger was the more impressive for being rare. To friends and acquaintances he seemed to be one of the last gentlemen in England. No-one could recall his ever being rude through lapse or intent; his elaborate courtesy never deserted him.

He retired to playing golf and enjoying over rugby. His wartime career fiddling with bombs lived on in building gadgets, making jewellery and amassing tools of every description: scientific instruments which recalled the PhD which circumstances had prevented his following before the war. For more than ten years he served on the committee of the VC and GC Association.

His wife Muriel died in 1990; he is survived by a son and two daughters.

## JOHN BABINGTON, GC

## Astronomy

## The night sky in April

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE  
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is a morning star throughout the month but being south of the Sun remains low in the sky and will not be readily visible. It reaches greatest western elongation (27 degrees) on the 23rd at 0 magnitude and it will be 2 degrees north of Venus on the 5th/6th.

Venus is also a morning star but rises less than an hour before the Sun and even with a brightness of -3.9 magnitude it will be difficult to glimpse as it rises in the eastern sky during morning twilight. The waning crescent Moon is to the north on the 1st. Mars has brightened to 1.2 magnitude but remains near the eastern horizon rising only one hour before the Sun and will not be visible to the naked eye before June. The Moon is to the north on the 29th.

Jupiter is in Leo, a brilliant -2.3 magnitude evening star throughout April, setting by 03h late in the month. The waxing gibbous Moon is to the south on the 15th. Saturn is in Capricorn rising by 02h by the 30th. The Moon is nearby on the 26th.

Uranus is in Sagittarius, rising in the south-east soon after midnight by the 30th. It is stationary on the 22nd. The last quarter Moon passes only 2 degrees to the north of the 6th magnitude planet on the 23rd/24th.

Neptune is also in Sagittarius and is stationary on the 20th. The 8th magnitude planet will be about 2 degrees to the north of Uranus for much of the year and rising and setting about the same times. The Moon passes less than a degree to the north of Neptune on the 23rd/24th.

The Moon: new Moon, 3d 05h; first quarter, 10d 10h; full Moon, 17d 05h; last quarter, 24d 22h. Sunset on the 1st is at 18h 35m and on the 30th at 19h 25m while sunrise is at 05h 35m and 04h 30m on the same dates. Astronomical Twilight ends at 20h 30m and 21h 55m early and late in the month and begins at 03h 40m and 02h 00m.

In the February notes it was mentioned that the winter constellations soon disappear into evening twilight during April, when the days are lengthening quickly.

The time of real darkness, between the end and beginning of astronomical twilight, decreases by more than three hours in the southern British Isles during April, about half in the morn-

ing and half in the evening.

The familiar constellation Orion that was high in the south-west in darkness in March is already near the horizon by dusk early in April and has all but disappeared by mid-month. By the time of our chart, the Pleiades, Aldebaran and Argos all lie along the north-western horizon. The summer constellations rising in the east are less conspicuous and well-known. There is a rather large area devoid of bright stars to the east of Arcturus.

The bright stars Vega in Lyra (the lyre or harp) and Deneb in Cygnus (the swan) are circumpolar at our latitudes, meaning they never set, and both have been visible along the northern horizon all night during the winter.

The celestial equator lies immediately above the Earth's equator. For an observer anywhere along the equator, the celestial equator passes through the zenith (overhead). A star's position to the north or south of the celestial equator is called its declination and is measured in degrees from the equator (0 degrees) towards the north pole (+90 degrees) or the south pole (-90 degrees). How high a star can be in the sky depends on one's own latitude and the star's declination.

A little to the north of London

for example at a latitude of 52 degrees north, the equator reaches an altitude above the southern horizon of 90 - 52 = 38 degrees, so any star with a southern declination of -38 degrees or more will never rise.

In the northern sky our same observer will see the north pole of the sky (Polaris) at less than a degree above the north pole 90 - 52 = 38 degrees above the northern horizon. In other words the altitude of the pole is equal to the latitude of the place of observation, and this applies all over the Earth.

Any star with a declination of more than +38 degrees will never set. Vega just scrapes the horizon at its lowest point with a declination of +39 degrees while Deneb clears the horizon by 5 degrees.

At the Earth's equator the whole of the night sky, both the northern and southern hemispheres can be seen, but at any one moment half of each is below the horizon. At the Earth's north pole only the northern hemisphere can be seen and that is always above the horizon, the southern hemisphere being perpetually below the horizon. The celestial equator lies along the horizon. At the south pole it is the northern sky that can never be seen.



The diagram shows the brightest stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich time at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be viewed so that the stars are seen as they appear to the viewer from the ground. The circles at the bottom, the north being at the centre, Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying table unless otherwise specified.

## APPRECIATION

## Georges Delerue

MAY I add a paragraph to your obituary (March 24) of Georges Delerue? Even if he was best known for his film scores, his music for ballet ought not to pass unmentioned, since he fulfilled commissions for companies as important as the Paris Opera (Georges Skibine's *Conte Cruel* in 1959) and the Royal Danish ballet (*Flemming Flindt's* big, ambitious *Three Musketeers* in 1966).

His best ballet score was for *The Lesson*. Flindt's adaptation into dance of the Ionesco play. First made for Danish

television in 1963, this had its stage premiere at the Opera Comique in Paris the next year, and has never since been absent from the stage. Productions have included, in Britain, the Scottish Ballet and Northern Ballet Theatre, besides a particularly memorable staging for one of Nureyev's Coliseum seasons when he danced with Natalia Makarova.

The compelling drama of the choreography, especially for the male role, is the explanation of the ballet's great success, but Delerue's vivid, instantly rhythmic score deserves full share of the credit.

John Percival

## March 30 ON THIS DAY

1895

The sufferings of the Armenians in Turkey, a cause so close to Gladstone's heart, led to the publication of two lengthy dispatches, of which this extract is typical. Indeed, a leading article in *The Times* explained that the worst of the atrocities had been omitted from the report in order to spare the readers' feelings.

## THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES

About the middle of the district between Dalvorik and Shadak is a large mountain, Andole by name. It is evidently an extinct volcano, for at the summit there is a large bowl-shaped hollow. There are precipitous cliffs about its base, and the slopes are in many places well wooded. With plenty of ammunition and provisions, a small force could almost render it impregnable. The inhabitants of a number of villages had fled to this mountain, at the beginning of hostilities, taking with them their flocks they could, and their number was constantly being added to as people escaped from the invading forces. This mountain was surrounded by troops and Kurds. The latter for days provoked the exhaustion of what little ammunition the Armenians had left, but none of them seemed to know the path of approach to the summit. Finally an agha of the Bakranli tribe, Amar by name, son of Gako, was found, who knew the way and showed it to the troops and Kurds. For this service the Kurds have repeatedly said that Amar received a decoration from the Sultan, though I have not been able to find anyone who had actually seen the decoration. Very early one morning the forces set out to the sides of Andole. They almost surrounded the rim of the great hollow before the people gathered below are aware.

Who can describe that despairing cry of agony, proceeding from thousands of throats, as the poor people find themselves hedged in. The cry is heard by those at a distance below the mountain, as it is also the bugle giving the order to charge. At first the crowd is thinned out by volleys of bullets, and then the bayonet and sword do the rest. The number is said to have been from 4,000 to 5,000, but this is probably a great exaggeration. The bodies were heaped together with wood between, saturated with kerosene, and set afire, as was done in most other cases, so that the people were killed in crowds, and there was no convenient wheat pit or natural trench or gully into which to throw them. Those who were killed here and there among the rocks and bushes were left unburied. The weather and birds did the rest. The crows which are usually so common in Mush and vicinity had all deserted this year for more lucrative employment. When the wind was in the right direction the stench was perceptible on the mountains within sight of Mush.

Let me explain the part played by the Kurds in the affair. It seems the Rusthokli tribe was late in being sent and scene of action, and found things so thoroughly swept before them that, rather than go back empty, they went out of the way and attacked the village of Maring, behind Havadvorik, and took away 1,600 sheep. The people complained to the Government, and soldiers were sent, who recovered 600. Apart from spoils in sheep, cattle, and goods, the Kurds were active in taking captive women and children. The Bakranli tribe alone, it is said, took off 400 women, besides children. Of all the women and children that were taken off by the Kurds and troops, especially by the officers of the latter, I think 1,000 a safe estimate. The Sheikh of Zelon received one-eighth of the spoils taken by the tribes under his control. His share was 800 sheep and goats, 40 mules, 33 choice cows, and three or four horses.



## Hyperactive boys respond to treatment

## Diet transforms child behaviour

By LOUISE HIDALGO

RESEARCH carried out at Great Ormond Street children's hospital supports the theory that the behaviour of hyperactive children can be affected by diet.

Unpublished details of the study reveal that more than 80 per cent of hyperactive children who responded to a special diet cutting out foods known to cause allergies underwent marked changes in behaviour. The new study supports the findings of previous research at Great Ormond Street which was met with scepticism by the medical profession.

Professor Stephan Strobel, the specialist in paediatric

immunology who led the research, said: "The study shows there is a sub-group of children who do respond to diet, in some cases dramatically. More research needs to be done on the reason for this but it does show that in some cases the manic behaviour of the hyperactive child can be transformed into the underlying naughtiness of the normal child."

The two-year study was carried out in two stages: 80 hyperactive children, none of whom was known to have food allergies, were tested to see if they responded to the diet, which cuts out milk, eggs, citrus fruits, colourings,

preservatives, chocolate, wheat and other known allergens. Those who responded — about a quarter — went on to a series of double-blind tests, where the behavioural change in more than 80 per cent was directly linked to what they ate.

Hyperactivity affects one in 200 children, mainly boys. The disorder, which can blight the lives of children and their families, typically leads to impulsive behaviour, lack of concentration, aggression, and little sense of personal danger.

Sheela Yeaton's two sons have both been found to be hyperactive. The eldest, 15-year-old Craig, has been in trouble with the police 19 times in two years. He would vandalise the family home and could be violent. Matthew, who is eight, was difficult to control and brawling with energy.

Six months ago, Mrs Yeaton agreed to put her sons on the Great Ormond Street "few foods" diet as part of a pilot study among young offenders in Shipley, West Yorkshire. "The change was remarkable," she says. "Matthew is a totally different person. He reads, which he never did before. He does what he's told and is much calmer and quieter." Craig's bullying and violence also stopped when he was on the diet. He has since gone off it and has re-offended.

Superintendent Peter Bennett of West Yorkshire Constabulary, who set up the project with the National Society for Research into Allergy and Dr Leonard McEwen, a private specialist in food intolerance, believes the results — six out of the nine hyperactive youngsters on the project have not re-offended in the last seven months — provide a useful pointer for dealing with behavioural problems in young criminals.

Dr Eric Taylor, of the Institute of Psychiatry at London's Maudsley hospital, who participated in the Great Ormond Street research, cautions against putting too much value on treating behavioural problems with diet. "There are still many unanswered questions and diet will only be one cause among many," he said.

The Great Ormond Street research and the Shipley crime prevention project are to be featured on BBC's Q&D next month.

Yelvin flounders, page 12  
Bernard Levin, page 14

## Town with no name is out in the cold

Continued from page 1

Many of Russia's best minds, applied for the past four decades to pushing out the bounds of Soviet science and competing with the West in utter secrecy, must now be bent to quite a different purpose. They must test their products in competition with the rest of the world.

To its few visitors, the concept and the reality of Krasnoyarsk-26 make it appear an elite prison but no less prison-like for that. About 15 miles across, it is surrounded by several rows of high fencing. The entry gate looks like one of the former border checkpoints between East and West Germany. There is even a miniature no man's land and a white notice saying "customs post". A railway line, apparently for goods traffic only, enters at the same place.

In the centre of the surface city is Soviet communism as it was meant to be. Krasnoyarsk-26 is the tidiest, cleanest, most orderly city I have seen in Russia. Not a scrap of litter pollutes its streets. The quality of building and maintenance is outstanding — it was built and is maintained by soldiers. The snow is neatly cleared. The trees which line the pavements have been pruned with military precision.

The city has a theatre, an orchestra and a choir. Its ratio of shops and services to population is closer to the Western idea of what a town should provide. Its kindergartens, schools, colleges, recreation facilities and supplies of housing, food and consumer goods were the best that the Soviet system could provide. The housing was more spacious, and there was more space for everyone. Until the system faltered, supplies of food and consumer goods were always first class. In the looking-glass world of the Soviet Union, the only places where communism worked were closed to prying eyes.

"Our town" was founded in 1949 and the first defence industries were established in the early 1950s by special order of Stalin. The first scientists came from Leningrad, and the wave of immigrants culminated in 1959, when the current director, Mikhail Reshetnev, accompanied by the brightest and best of his year arrived to take up their posts. And that is one of the town's tragedies: it is frozen in the 1950s.

The town and all it contains would be such an impressive sign of openness were it not so sad — its attempts to attract Western investment a barely disguised end-of-season sale by a system that has bankrupted itself trying in vain to compete.



Atlantic challenge: the modern square rigger Dar Młodzieży heads down the Solent yesterday bound for Cadiz for the start of the Columbus regatta next month. The 366ft Polish ship, which carries 2,936 square metres of sail from three 164ft masts, will lead a fleet of tall ships crossing from Spain to America and returning to Liverpool in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the New World voyage.

## Clinton and Brown dip into trouble

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

THE American presidential campaign headed into rough waters again as Bill Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, admitted on television he had experimented with marijuana while at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

He also said that he has set up a team to travel his own public and private records to

identify and pre-empt any further revelations that may damage his candidacy.

Appearing jointly on CBS with Jerry Brown, his rival for the Democratic nomination, Mr Clinton said that while at Oxford between 1968 and 1970 he had used marijuana "a time or two, and I didn't like it". He added: "I didn't inhale, and I didn't try it again." Mr Brown told Mr Clinton to "lay off this stuff

... What you did 20 years ago is not relevant." The two men had been asked if they had ever violated state, federal or international law.

Mr Brown found himself embroiled in allegations linking him with a firm that allegedly acted improperly in the Aids field, undermining his efforts to present himself as the Mr Clean of the race and Mr Clinton as the "scandal-a-day candidate".

## Worried Tories target floaters

Continued from page 1

The gloomy survey published yesterday by Dun & Bradstreet International, the business information company, showed that business failures in Britain totalled 14,831 for the first three months of this year.

Although the figure was only slightly higher than the statistic for the last quarter of 1991, it showed a sharp increase on the first quarter of 1991, when 9,622 businesses failed. There were a record 47,777 failures last year, a third more than in 1990, and unless there is some sign of recovery soon, the record could fall again. The study also shows that the present weekly rate of failures, at 1,240, is much higher than the 800 a week recorded last March.

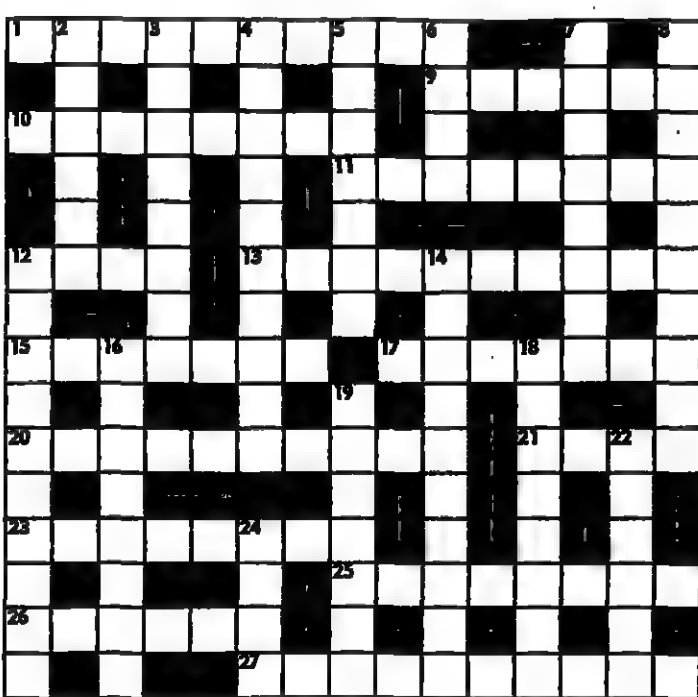
Philip Mellor, D&B's marketing manager, said previous recessions showed that the rate of business failures tended to peak some time after the recession had reached a trough. The business failure figures, combining bankruptcies and liquidations, confirm employment department jobless statistics which show that the South-East is still suffering more severely from the recession than the rest of the country.

Gordon Brown, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said the figures showed that business failures would now exceed 100,000 during the recession with more than one million lost jobs. "This makes this recession election a referendum on Conservative economic failure," he said.

"With the new figures showing business failures rising faster now than even in 1991 and that half of company liquidations are in the South-East, the Labour party will this week step up its economic campaign demanding a new deal for small businesses, with John Major the 'unemployment' prime minister who has cost us a million jobs. The Conservatives are guilty of abandoning businesses to their fate."

Election 92, pages 7-11  
Peter Riddell, page 14  
Diary, page 14  
Leading article and letters, page 15  
Soaring failures, page 19  
Life and Times, page 7

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,879



## ACROSS

- 1 An opportunist with taking ways (5-5).
- 9 Each one houses a bird (6).
- 10 Queued, it might appear, for peace (8).
- 11 The old blow may well go to the head (3-5).
- 12 A little dress, a ripping piece of material (4).
- 13 Such tradesmen get no rest — it's a mistake (10).
- 15 Joining a group of players on leave (7).
- 17 Pop in a pair the Spanish wear (7).
- 20 Measured study (10).
- 21 Flyer with a taste for clothes (4).
- 23 Openly striking Tories (8).

## DOWN

- 2 One can't separate the beer and port (8).
- 6 Relations see the point in polite society (6).
- 7 Characters quite unaffected by any reversal (10).
- 8 A man of great age note, and so well-set-up (10).
- 12 Long partnership at the wicket — and the fielder's angle (10).
- 14 Outline permission is put in order (10).
- 16 Everybody turned to Edward, as intended (8).
- 18 Church member is first to come over bearing a seat (8).
- 19 A flier may be in a flat spin (7).
- 22 Boys beat it (3-3).
- 24 Have to struggle for breath, so talk softly (4).

## PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,878 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

Condor Crossword, page 11  
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?  
By Philip Howard  
ARTISTICS

- CARTELLINO**  
a. A frame I call scroll  
b. An Italian architect  
c. A small cartoon
- PUT**  
a. An indigo pigment  
b. A point on a palette  
c. Black pen and ink
- EMPAQUETAGE**  
a. The Age of Mannerism  
b. Chalcian Neo-Colonialism  
c. Making art out of parcels
- MAQUETTE**  
a. A Belgian Surrealist  
b. A model's model  
c. Paint applied with a knife

Answers on page 16

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M1-M25	733
M-ways/roads M25-M4	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
North-West	741
East Angles	742
North-West England	743
North-East England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Much of England and Wales will start dry with bright spells but rain will reach southern counties during the morning and spread into Wales, the Midlands and East Anglia later in the day. Northern Ireland, northern England and southern Scotland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Bright spells with blustery showers in northern Scotland will push south into much of Scotland. All parts will feel cold. Outlook: cloudy, wet and windy.

MIDDAY: 1-thunder; 2-drizzle; 3-fog; 4-snow; 5-sleet; 6-rain; 7-hail; 8-cloud; 9-clear	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity	Pressure
London	12	10	100	85	1015
Edinburgh	10	10	100	85	1015
Belfast	10	10	100	85	1015
Cardiff	10	10	100	85	1015
Glasgow	10	10	100	85	1015
Manchester	10	10	100	85	1015
Newcastle	10	10	100	85	1015
Sheffield	10	10	100	85	1015
Southampton	10	10	100	85	1015
Stirling	10	10	100	85	1015
Swansea	10	10	100	85	1015
Torquay	10	10	100	85	1015
Wrexham	10	10	100	85	1015
York	10	10	100	85	1015

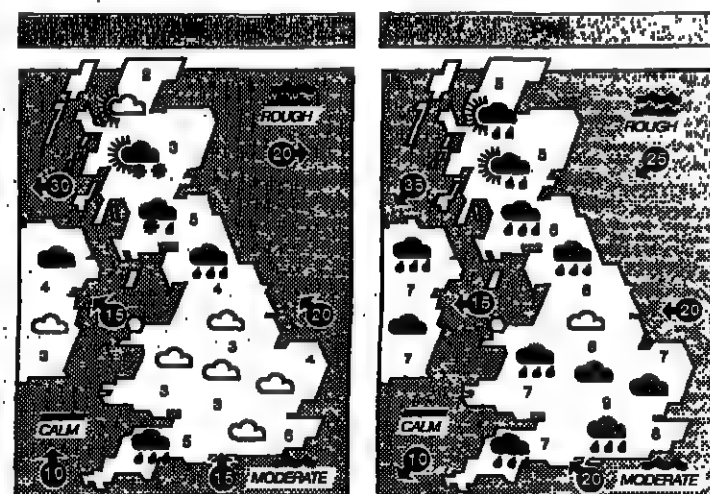
For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Australia S	21.90	96.80	Greater London	701
Austria E	5.53	2.17	Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Belgium F	51.70	51.70	Devon, Cornwall	703
Canada S	2.00	2.00	Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	704
Denmark D	11.81	10.86	Wales & Glamorgan	705
Finland Mik	8.31	7.71	Devon, Suffolk, Oxon	706
France FR	9.44	8.44	Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	707
Germany DM	2.995	2.795	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
Greece Dr	345.00	320.00	West Mid, Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Italy Lira	12.50	12.50	Surrey, Hereford & Worcs	710
Ireland P	1.122	1.052	Central Midlands	711
Italy Lira	2260.00	2110.00	Cardiganshire	712
Netherlands Gld	3.385	3.145	Lincs & Humberside	713
Norway Kr	11.79	10.59	Dyfed & Powys	714
Portugal Esc	267.25	235.25	Gwynedd & Cwyd	715
South Africa R	5.50	4.90	W & S England	716
Spain Ptas	167.50	157.17	W & S Yorks & Dalees	717
Sweden S	10.17	10.17	N E England	718
Switzerland Fr	2.72	2.54	Cumbria & Lake District	719
Turkey Lira	18.94	9600.00	W & S Scotland	720
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNS	DNS	W Central Scotland	721
			E S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
			Edin & Central Scotland	723
			W & S Highlands	724
			N W Scotland	725
			Caitness, Orkney & Shetland	726

Rates for annual devaluation bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. C. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

**BARCLAYS**

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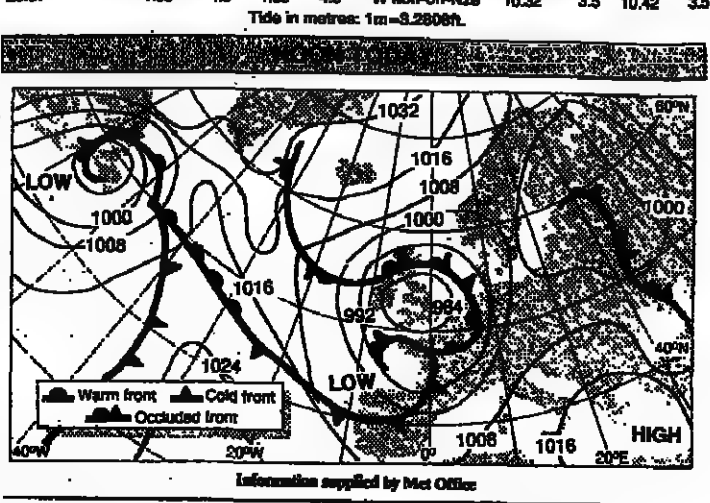


Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloudy; f, fair; m, mist; s, sun. London 7.31 pm to 6.38 am. Bristol 7.41 pm to 6.48 am. Edinburgh 7.47 pm to 6.54 am. Manchester 7.41 pm to 6.44 am. Perth 7.51 pm to 7.01 am.

Sun rises: 5.40 am. Moon sets: 2.46 pm. New Moon April 5.

Saturday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, and Taunton, Devon, 13C (55F). Lowest day temp: Fife, 6C (43F). Highest rainfall: Stormy, Outer Hebrides, 0.25 in. Highest sunshine: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and Cromer, Norfolk, 4.6 hr.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	London	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Edinburgh	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Edinburgh	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Belfast	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Belfast	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Cardiff	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Glasgow	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Glasgow	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Manchester	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Manchester	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Newcastle	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Newcastle	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Sheffield	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Sheffield	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Southampton	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Southampton	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Stirling	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Stirling	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Swansea	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Swansea	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Torquay	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Torquay	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
Wrexham	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	Wrexham	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1
York	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1	York	12.00	12.42	0.1	0.1



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MAN OF  
THE WEEK

Playing  
the part  
of a true  
captain

Not quite three months old and 1992 is already looking a good year for alumni of Sedburgh school. Will Carling, the England rugby captain, has his double grand slam, and Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland, has Steeley.

Thanks to the intervention of the Office of Fair Trading, Mr Napier's £600 million success took rather longer than the victories strung together by Mr Carling and his team — a gruelling 107 days in fact. And while a post-match sing-song in a muddy team



Napier challenge

bat may not quite be Mr Napier's way of celebrating, there is no doubt that the Redland team, in its own pin-striped fashion, is every bit as delighted as its sporting counterparts.

Had spectators been admitted, the manner of Redland's success last Thursday would have provided gripping entertainment. With just 45 minutes to go and still per cent short of the acceptance needed for victory, the tension was a considerable test of Mr Napier's calm, analytical style. But a brisk walk round the block later — the financial equivalent of calling for Jonathan Webb — victory was assured. Project Merlin, as the bid was code-named, had landed.

Unlike the England team, Redland will not signal the departure of a number of familiar faces. Indeed, even holidays will be in short supply as the youthful team put together by the 44-year-old chief executive gets down to the challenge of delivering what it has promised. Sir Colin Corness, now non-executive chairman, built Redland into what is. What it will become is Mr Napier's problem.

It is a challenge he is likely to relish, with the global recession largely responsible for Thursday's forecast fall in pre-tax profits to £185 million only adding to its intellectual appeal, one suspects. But it will not be tackled alone. The Steeley success has shown that Redland is a team effort these days, where individuals' views are listened to and, once agreed, acted upon. That team drew up the detailed bid. Now will the Merlin fly?

MATTHEW BOND

UK business  
failures soar  
to 1,200 a week

By ROSS TIERMAN AND JONATHAN PEYRON

BUSINESS failures in Britain are running at 248 every working day, more than 50 per cent up on the level of a year ago, according to Dun & Bradstreet International, the business information company.

The group recorded 14,881 business collapses during the first quarter of 1992. That is 4.5 per cent higher than during the final quarter of last year, and compares with 9,622 for the first quarter of 1991. Last year was a record for business failures, with 47,777 liquidations and bankruptcies, compared with 28,935 in 1990 and 18,163 in 1989.

The figure for this year may be even worse. The current weekly rate of failures, at 1,240, is sharply up on the level of 800 a week recorded during March last year.

Philip Mellor, D&B's marketing manager, said previous recessions showed that the rate of business failures tended to peak some time after the recession had reached a trough. Trends within the figures appear to suggest that the recession has entered a mature phase. The weekly rate of liquidations slowed from 479 in the last quarter of 1991 to 467 in the first quarter of 1992. But the weekly rate of bankruptcies rose from 708 to 773.

Mr Mellor said the rise in bankruptcies was consistent with initial evidence from an incomplete D&B survey of managing directors which suggested that the problem of late payment had become worse during the first quarter of 1992.

The business failure figures

confirm evidence from employment department jobless statistics that the South-East continues to suffer more from the recession than the rest of the country. London and the South-East accounted for nearly 40 per cent of business failures and over 50 per cent of liquidations.

The biggest rise in business failures was in the South-East, excluding London. Here there were 3,523 business failures during the first quarter of 1992, an increase of 87.5 per cent on the same months of last year. The number of bankruptcies more than doubled, to 2,234, while liquidations, at 1,289, were up 53.1 per cent.

The increase in business failures was also particularly high in the South-West, where it rose by 58.9 per cent to 1,724, in the eastern region, where there was a 59.5 per cent increase, and in Wales, where there was a 74.3 per cent rise.

In the East Midlands, the West Midlands, and the North-East, the rise in the number of failures narrowly exceeded 50 per cent.

Only in the North-West, where failures rose by 41.6 per cent, and in Scotland, where the increase was 28.2 per cent, and in London, which saw a 45.4 per cent increase in business failures, was the rise more modest.

Levels of credit for long-term financial commitments such as car and house purchases remain depressed in the run-up to the election, although demand for credit for smaller consumer items is on the rise. Figures from Infoclink, a financial data company, show that non-building society mortgage ap-

plications were down in February by 12.4 per cent on the same month in 1991.

The slump was even greater in the new car loans sector, which fell by 16.1 per cent, an acceleration on January's 14.3 per cent rate of decline.

However, figures for retail credit showed a 7 per cent year-on-year increase in demand, confirming a trend established in December.

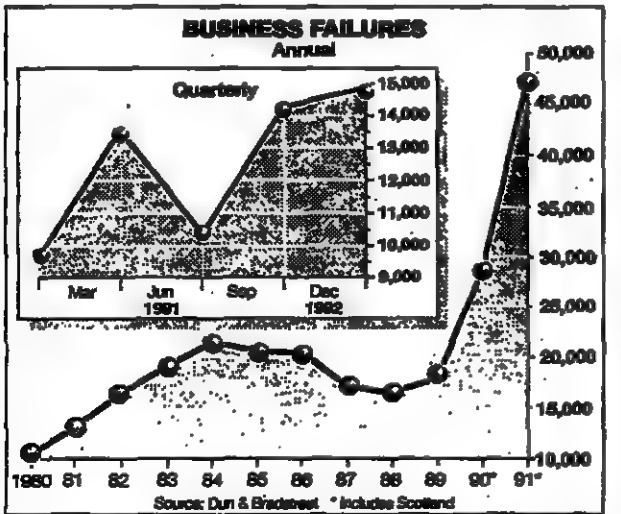
The Institute of Directors has outlined a number of concerns about Conservative manifesto proposals for business, although it is publicly backing the government in the election. Fear Morgan, the director general of the IoD, said that none of the parties were "even discussing" how to achieve lower levels of interest rates. Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals to freeze and later abolish the uniform business rate are favoured over those of the Conservatives. However, overall, the IoD said that its assessment of the three parties' manifestos "lead us to the conclusion that the Conservative party's proposals show a better understanding of the case for a market economy than their political opponents".

The Institute of Economic Affairs remains pessimistic about the recovery because of "major structural weaknesses" in the economy, according to a new report out today.

The report urges restructuring industry and the housing market and withdrawing from the European exchange-rate mechanism. In it, Walter Eids, director general of the National Economic Development Office, highlighted "major weaknesses" in the engineering industry. Low profits in the sector were cutting investment under the levels needed to compete in Europe, he wrote.

Further evidence of a deepening recession comes with the latest figures showing higher numbers of county court judgments against businesses. Judgments in England and Wales in the second half of 1991 rose 35 per cent, to 221,536, compared with the second half of 1990. County court judgments against individuals reached a high of 1.8 million in 1991.

Small firms shed almost 1 million jobs, equivalent to 15 per cent of their workforce, in the two years to 1991, according to a Small Business Research Trust survey.



Brent to confirm £1.6bn funding

By MATTHEW BOND

BRENT Walker, the leisure company, is expected to confirm today that it has finally completed its £1.6 billion refinancing agreement.

The final agreement comes about 16 months after the company, then guided by George Walker, its founder, first entered into talks with its banks. Even after Mr Walker was removed as chief executive last year, the refinancing took Lord Kindersley, Brent Walker's chairman, another ten months to conclude. The

agreement comes only one day before the approvals given by bondholders and shareholders at December's extraordinary meetings run out.

Under the agreement, the banks are swapping £250 million of debt into equity with the balance converted into a term debt maturing at the end of 1997.

The original proposals had conditions that had to be met before the 47 banks that lent money to Brent Walker and the 30 banks that backed the

ring-fenced William Hill acquisition would approve the agreement. All but one of the pre-conditions have been met, although the banks have agreed the outstanding matter can be set on one side to enable the refinancing to proceed. This is the settlement of Brent Walker's dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the acquisition of William Hill and Mecca Racing. Grand-Met sold the companies to Brent Walker for £685 million in 1989.

Property slump hits leading firms

O&Y  
seeks  
informal  
talks

By MATTHEW BOND

OLYMPIA & York, the Canadian property group, has called off the meeting in London planned for today between the company and some of its British and European banks.

The decision follows a presentation to 20 banks, including some European banks, at O&Y's headquarters in Toronto on Friday, less than a week after the group first admitted it was facing a "liquidity crisis" and was in talks with its banks over debts now estimated at £520 billion (£10 billion). Instead of repeating the meeting in London, Michael Dennis, the O&Y executive in charge of the Canary Wharf project in London Docklands, has returned to London to talk to banks on an informal basis.

Barclays Bank is believed to have the biggest British exposure to O&Y. Last week, the bank became the manager of a £52 million short-term facility that is enabling work on O&Y's Canary Wharf project to proceed.

Tom Johnson and Robert Millar, the outside executives brought in by O&Y to head its negotiations with the banks, were also expected in London last week. Their trip has been postponed to give them more time to prepare the interim refinancing plan that O&Y has promised will be ready for its next meeting with bankers on April 6. O&Y has asked that debt maturing before that be rolled over.

Reports that O&Y's debt problems threaten the second phase of Canary Wharf appear exaggerated as, even before the debt problem emerged, O&Y had made it clear there were no immediate plans for further building. Phase one is almost complete.

Letting the remaining office space at Canary Wharf remains the group's top priority. While the quality of the finished buildings at the development continues to win praise, the London office market is still extremely competitive with supply outstripping demand and rents under pressure.

Leading article, page 15



In the hot seat: Gerald Ronson will this week ask for time to repay Heron's debts

Ronson to face bankers

GERALD Ronson faces a testing week as he prepares a presentation for his bankers on Heron International, his debt-stricken property and motor group.

On Friday morning, he will meet bankers and ask for up to two years to repay the group's £1.2 billion of debt. The presentation is expected to include a forecast of a heavy loss for the group in the financial year ending tomorrow, compared with a profit of £2 million in 1991. The results may be accompanied by large asset write-downs.

Mr Ronson and other Heron directors have already met

and spoken to many of the group's bankers to warn them of the problems, but they have not released detailed figures.

The group is expected to ask for the maturities on a proportion of each of its ten Swiss franc and eurobonds issues to be extended by up to two years, and for similar extensions on its term loans. Unless the banks agree to the proposals, Heron may be unable to repay debts on time next year.

Heron's property, petrol retailing and motor businesses have been hard hit by the recession and the group was

not helped when Mr Ronson was sentenced to 12 months in prison in September 1990, just as the economy was slowing down. He was released in February last year after serving six months.

Last month, Mr Ronson appointed Price Waterhouse to assess the group's finances. Heron is also being helped in the debt reconstruction by UBS Phillips & Drew, the investment bank, and Allen & Overy, the solicitors.

However, since he controls all of Heron, Mr Ronson is expected to take a leading role in the events and in the meeting.

Lonrho to  
calm US  
investors

LONRHO, the international trading group, is confident that it can reassure American shareholders after the sale last week of a one-third interest in the group's Metropole hotel chain to the Libyan Arab Investment Company.

In particular, the company plans to talk early this week to Fidelity Management and Research, the American fund manager that is now its second largest shareholder. Lonrho believes the fact that it will retain full control of the Metropole chain will reassure the Americans.

The deal has also added to the pressure on UBS Phillips & Drew, Lonrho stockbroker, but Paul Spicer, Lonrho's deputy chairman, had no comment to make on reports that P&D was likely to resign.

Chic are cheerless about Labour win

By DEBRA ISAAC

DESPITE Labour's pledges to invest in "showcases for fashion and design", key British fashion designers are predicting an exodus of their clients if there is a high-taxing Labour government.

Zandra Rhodes, whose exotic evening gowns sell for more than £2,000, said: "The whole of the industry would be ruined in this country if Labour wins. Times are really hard now, but under Labour,

said: "We've heard rumours from our customers, very rich, very high-profile people, that they're going to leave the country if Labour wins and I think it will be very difficult."

Mr Starzewski believes any designers of luxury products will feel the pinch. He said: "People who earn their money, people who have mortgages and school fees to pay, the people who can only just



start to spend." Another encouraging sign for Britain's haute couture industry is the number of top continental designers, including Gianni Versace and Christian Lacroix, opening shops in London this spring.

But Liliana Abboud, who co-owns the Valentino shops in Bond Street and Sloane Street, and who today opens a new Karl Lagerfeld shop in Bond Street, probably sums up the prevailing mood. "I am a Conservative

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7380 (+0.0373)  
German mark  
2.8581 (-0.0038)  
Exchange index  
90.2 (+0.4)  
Bank of England official  
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

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ten full years.

12%

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JOHN CHARCOL



# Volkswagen to cut 12,500 workers despite profit rise

FROM REUTERS IN HANOVER

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's biggest car maker, plans to cut 12,500 jobs by 1996 and has recommended Ferdinand Piech, the Audi chief, to succeed Carl Hahn as management board chairman from 1993.

Dieter Ullsperger, the finance chief, also announced slightly improved 1991 group results and an unchanged dividend of DM11 per ordinary share and DM12 per preference share. Net profit rose 1.8 per cent to

a new high of DM1.11 billion (DM1.09 billion). Herr Ullsperger said VW planned to cut 12,500 of its 130,000 domestic jobs by 1996, denying a report in *Manager Magazin*, the German monthly magazine, that the company would slash its workforce by 25,000 over that period. The cuts would be carried out by attrition. He said the domestic workforce had already been trimmed by 3,000 in 1991.

VW later announced that

the executive committee of its supervisory board had agreed to recommend that Herr Piech, a member of the Porsche supervisory board and the grandson of Ferdinand Porsche, who developed the VW Beetle and founded Porsche, the sports car maker, should succeed Herr Hahn from January 1, 1993. Herr Hahn's contract was due to expire at the end of 1993. Herr Piech has headed VW's profitable Audi unit since 1989.

Herr Ullsperger said the company would also recommend to an April supervisory board meeting that Daniel Goeudevert, head of the company's VW marque, be appointed deputy management board chairman.

Group sales also reached a new record, rising 12.1 per cent to DM76.3 billion from DM68.06 billion a year earlier. However, parent net profit plunged by a third to DM447 million from DM670 million, dragged down by high spending on new models. Extra depreciation linked to VW's location in the former border area between east and west Germany and tax write-offs in eastern Germany had also trimmed more than DM1 billion from the company's 1991 earnings, Herr Ullsperger said.

The 1991 results were in line with the last outlook issued by VW in February, which said group net profit would be flat, while parent net profit would decline.

## Last pleas made in Wilkes tussle

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

THE £28 million all paper takeover bid by Petrocon for James Wilkes, the engineering concern, closes at 1pm today with both sides making last-ditch pleas for backing.

The bid has been one of the City's dirtiest for years, with accusations about management and personal styles flying in both directions. During the battle, Stephen Hinchliffe, the chairman of the bid target, resigned. He was replaced by Arthur Watt. The Takeover Panel criticised three leading corporate advisers concerning events in January leading up to the formal announcement of a bid on February 3. Owner-

ship of Beauchief Hall, a listed property set in parkland outside Sheffield, and used as Wilkes's headquarters, was criticised by Petrocon. The property has now been sold.

The bidder also criticised a payment of £533,000 made to Mr Hinchliffe, Wilkes's former chairman, when he quit. In February, Mr Watt said members of Petrocon's management team, including Colin Robinson, the chairman, were the subject of legal action alleging that they acted in breach of their fiduciary duties as company directors.

Petrocon's bid terms are 13-for-three. The result of the battle is expected later today.



Raising standards: Ray Wild, principal, says the race is on to internationalise

## College to expand abroad

HENLEY Management College plans to widen its international presence in the thriving master of business administration (MBA) qualification sector by expanding joint collegiate ventures abroad (Derek Harris writes).

The college has 16 ventures, including a stake in the International Management Institute in St Petersburg, Russia. An agreement has

been finalised with Zagreb Business School in Croatia.

Henley is also opening a branch of the college in Hong Kong this year.

Professor Ray Wild, principal, said: "In business management, the race is on to internationalise. By the end of this year, we aim to have at least 20 ventures in place and there should be more after that." The aim is to have a full

international network in place within three years.

Henley currently has more than 6,000 MBA students, representing 15 per cent of its activities. It is the first college to establish a business administration sector tier by creating a doctor of business administration (DBA) qualification. There are signs that other British business schools will follow the initiative.

### REPORTING THIS WEEK

## Hard times likely to knock Pearson profits

### TODAY

LORD Blakenham, the chairman of Pearson, the publishing, financial and industrial group, will today report a hefty decline in profits, reflecting the difficult trading conditions in publishing and entertainment.

The group, which owns the *Financial Times* and *Macmillan*, is expected to see its final pre-tax profits fall to £165 million, against £226.3 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £163 million to £170 million. P&D expects net debt to be reduced from £400 million to about £190 million, with interest payments cut by the proceeds from the £314 million disposal of the 22.2 per cent stake in Elsevier, the Dutch publisher.

Lucas Industries, the aerospace and motor components group headed by Sir Anthony Gill, is expected to show, at best, a small half-profit and, at worst, to slide into the red. A combination of weakness in European automotive markets, declining military expenditure in the aerospace sector, poor demand for spares and high restructuring costs will affect the group.

Sandy Morris, at County NatWest, expects the company to break even, compared with pre-tax profits of

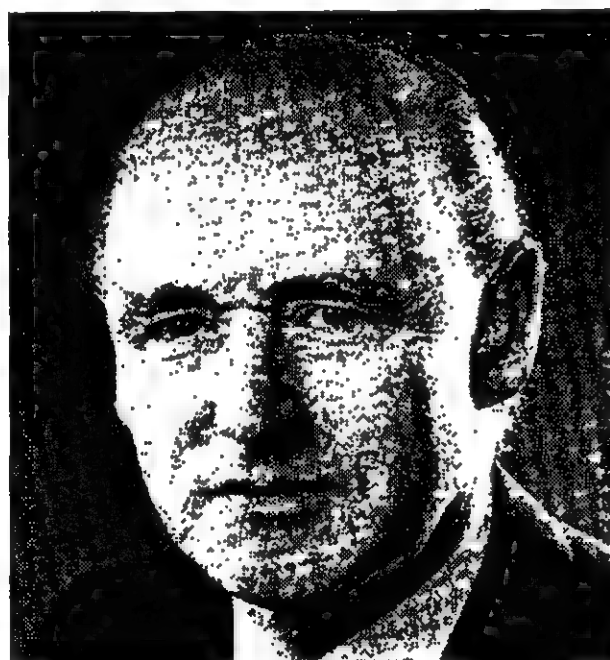
£55.3 million last time. Fully diluted earnings per share are forecast to fall to 0.7p (5.8p).

However, analysts expect a maintained interim dividend of 2.1p, covered by an expected inflow of £90 million from the pension fund, although all eyes will be on the group's cash flow.

The recession, restructuring and refinancing will combine to take their toll at Hickson International, the chemicals group. Philip Morris, at Smith New Court, has pencilled in a decline in final pre-tax profits to £21 million, against £26.7 million last time. A higher tax charge is expected to push earnings per share to 10.9p (15.9p), although the dividend should be maintained at 8p.

Indscape, the international services and marketing group, predicted full-year profits of at least £180 million (£174 million) at the time of last December's £376 million rights issue to finance the acquisition of Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn. Market forecasts range from £180 million to £182 million.

Interline: EPM Income Trust, International Investment Trust, Company of Jersey, Lucas Industries, Flaxton Group, Avonmore Foods, Somers International, Capital and Regional Properties, Computer People Group, Edinburgh Fund Man-



Profit or loss? Sir Anthony Gill of Lucas Industries

### TOMORROW

The effects of the recession are expected to knock Croda International, the chemicals group. Smith New Court forecasts a decline in annual pre-tax profits to £21 million (£33.7 million). Forecasts range from £20 million to £22.5 million. A higher tax charge is likely to push earn-

ings per share down to 10.5p (17.5p). A dividend of 7.3p (11p) is predicted.

Interline: AS Electronic Products Group, Bullis Gilford Japan Trust, Golden Hope Plantations, TIP Europe, Trafford Park Estates, Flaxton Group, Anglo Pacific Resources, Sison & Battersby, BNB Resources, Clifton Cards, Croda International, Estates & General, European Project Investment Trust, Garton Engineering, Gaskell, Hay (Norman), Headman Group, Jacobs (John), Johnson Press, Macfarlane Group (Cassman), Mayflower Corporation, Mowat Group, Nordin & Pascock, Tye Tees Television.

Economic statistics: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (fourth quarter).

### WEDNESDAY

Harrisons & Crofield, the chemicals, building supplies and plantations group, is expected to see its final pre-tax profits slide 30 per cent to £74 million, according to County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £67 million to £75 million, although the big question is whether the dividend will be cut. County predicts a dividend of 6.3p (9p).

Interline: Ash & Lacy, Harrisons & Crofield, Hogg Group, House of Leros, Lac Refrigeration, North British Canadian Investment Company, Rademec Group, Senior Engineering, Sherwood Computer Services.

Economic statistics: Advance energy statistics (February).

### THURSDAY

Sun Alliance will conclude the composite insurers' reporting season. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in heavier losses of £450 million, against last time's deficit of £181 million. Market forecasts range from losses of £420 million to losses of £270 million.

Schoell, the supplier of foot and personal healthcare products, is likely to report final pre-tax profits of £16.2 million (£14.2 million), according to Goldman Sachs.

Interline: Barry Wehmiller International, Manchester United, Penfold Associated Fisheries, Baird (William), Campari International, Dawson Group, Great Southern Group, Hadden Stuart Home Counties, Newspapers Holdings, London and Manchester Group, Schell, Scottish Heritage Trust, Sorex-Sarco Engineering, Sun Alliance Group, Telematic, Tibury Douglas, Trans World Communications.

Economic statistics: UK official reserves (March).

### FRIDAY

Interline: China & Eastern Investment Company, Flaxton Group, Flaxton Resources, Johnson Group, Kingston Group, Korea Liberalisation Fund, New Island Holdings, Scottish Television, Usher Walker.

Economic statistics: House renovations (fourth quarter); housing starts and completions (February).

PHILIP PANGALOS

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Security Pacific sells Asian broking arm

SECURITY Pacific, the California-based bank that sold Hoare Govett, the London stockbroking firm, last month, has announced the disposal of Hoare Govett Asia, its Asian broking operations. A majority share in Hoare Govett Asia is to be sold to its management and employees with a 49 per cent stake being taken by Guoco Group, the holding company for the Dao Heng Bank in Hong Kong. Hoare Govett Asia has eight sales and research offices in Asia and sales operations in London, New York and Sydney.

The sale agreement forms part of Security Pacific's strategy of concentrating on its core banking activities in the western part of America and in the Pacific rim. Tony Lowrie, chief operating officer of Hoare Govett Asia, said: "The Guoco relationship means that we are able to relaunch Hoare Govett Asia as an independent regional stockbroker with a strong financial partner."

## Olivetti expects loss

OLIVETTI, the Italian computer maker which is due to report a loss for 1991, expects to break even in 1992 and move into profit next year, analysts who attended a company presentation said. They said Carlo De Benedetti, the chairman, expected turnover in 1992 to increase about 2 to 3 per cent from last year and further in 1993. In 1991, Olivetti had a turnover of L8,600 billion, (£4 billion) down from L9,040 billion a year earlier. The analysts said the chairman expected the company to report a 1991 consolidated net loss of L290 billion, compared with a profit of L60.4 billion.

## Israel given IMF loan

ISRAEL has received a \$250 million loan from the International Monetary Fund to compensate for the country's foreign currency losses during the Gulf war. The IMF approved the five-year loan on the basis of a report drawn up by a mission that visited Israel last year. The Bank of Israel said. The low-interest loan comes with a two-year grace period. Israel had sought compensation from the IMF for foreign currency losses due to an increase in oil prices and a fall in tourism revenue during the tension in the Gulf from August 1990 to March last year.

## Ballot on bank action

MORE than 17,000 staff at the Royal Bank of Scotland are to be balloted on industrial action short of a strike by Bifu, the banking union, after the company refused to take two pay disputes to arbitration. The union said that clerical staff had been offered increases of between 2.5 and 3.5 per cent. Managers had been asked to change to a system of discretionary, performance-related rises. The union is seeking an 8 per cent rise across the board.

### SMALLER COMPANIES

## Addison sweeps to pole position

A general election guarantees that the market research companies are expected to allow AGB to return to profit within its first full year as part of the enlarged group. Analysts envisage earnings of between £2 million and £2.5 million from AGB in 1993.

Addison has had its own complications over the past three years. It was conceived as a broadly-based media conglomerate, and performed well in the early- and mid-Eighties. But it suffered serious setbacks in 1989. The need to rationalise prompted the sale of Addison Design, an event which divided the board and led to the departure of the chief executive and the resignation of many of the group's advisers.

The management of Taylor Nelson, the group's market research arm, found itself in the hot seat with Tony Cowling becoming chief executive and Liz Nelson appointed chairman. Since the second half of 1989 disposals and demergers have left a company that is wholly focused on market research and which boasts an unimpaired balance sheet. After the acquisition and rights issue, Addison will have £7 million in cash to fund AGB's working capital requirements and developments.

The business produced good profits and margins until 1989, when Robert Maxwell successfully bid £134 million. Since then many parts of the business have been sold. What was retained was affected by the imposition of high rents, management charges, the removal of management incentives and a high level of capital spending. The curtailment of rental

good profits and margins until 1989, when Robert Maxwell successfully bid £134 million. Since then many parts of the business have been sold. What was retained was affected by the imposition of high rents, management charges, the removal of management incentives and a high level of capital spending. The curtailment of rental

MARTIN BARROW

## NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATE

With effect from 1 April 1992 Mortgage Rate will be decreased from 11.5% to 10.95% per annum for all existing borrowers. The 100% Mortgage Rate will also be decreased from 11.5% to 11.45% per annum with effect from the same date.



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## Bears sighted in the bond market

A whispering campaign has begun. Seasoned gilt men are quietly suggesting a bear market for gilts has started. This is not a political judgment. The same conclusion holds whoever wins the election. Neither is it the consensus expectation. Consensus forecasts from the beginning of March, when ten-year gilt yields were 9.3 per cent, predicted an 8.9 per cent yield 12 months ahead. It will be interesting to see if this expectation changes when the post-Budget forecasts are published.

The Budget shock to the market came from the medium-term projections for the PSBR. These were cumulatively about £15 billion higher than the prevailing consensus, leading to a swift reappraisal of the acceptable trading range for yields. Indeed, they signalled to the market that the PSBR is more volatile than had been assumed, adding to uncertainty about its future size.

This greater sensitivity to the economy is not simply a reflection of the deeper than expected recession: it is the nature of this recession that has caught people out. Put simply, it is the deflation exerted by the private sector running for cover that has reduced the tax base and upset the economic modelers. Growth forecasts that depended on changes to interest rates, the exchange rate, government spending or taxation — the usual government policy levers — were not designed to reflect how people may react to high debt levels. Equally, if confidence were to return swiftly, the tax base would soon respond and expectations for the budget deficit would be more reassuring. The market, however, needs some convincing the structural

and cyclical budget deficits have risen. Only half the increase in public spending for the fiscal year ahead can be attributed to the recession. The rest represents a deliberate shift in public spending, increasing the structural deficit.

Higher deficits due to lower taxation have proved more acceptable to the market than ones born of structural shifts in government spending and there is an understandable fear of more to come. Credibility could be restored by swift entry to the narrow ERM band and no doubt Treasury policy makers will be keen to profit from this.

Allowing for taxation and likely inflation rates, interest rates should be high enough to support sterling

seems little need to panic about the interest rate consequences. Allowing for taxation and likely inflation rates, interest rates should be high enough to support sterling, especially if the inflation uncertainty premium is reduced by an unanticipated entry to the narrow bands. They may not be high enough, however, to finance a high and volatile budget deficit, particularly if marginal tax rates rise. The essential point is that interest rates are now determined more by the size and direction of the budget deficit than by sterling fluctuations. A new administration may be faced with the reality that the only

route to lower interest rates was through lower public spending. Higher taxation is not the easy option it once was. If sterling falters it will be because fiscal policy is judged too slack, not that interest rates are too low.

Neither the lack of consumer confidence nor the budget deficit problem is unique to Britain. Lower growth projections are leading to rising deficit expectations in Europe, which are set to conflict with the terms set for monetary convergence. Thus, disenchantment with the Maastricht summit commitments is emerging across the EC. The deflationary effects of a German attempt to lower average European inflation rates to below 2 per cent risk dampening economic growth into 1993.

The consequent deterioration in the European budget position will not assist the lowering of short rates, despite the favourable inflation picture. Competing foreign demands for British savings would eventually restrict the enthusiasm of any incoming government to spend as long gilt yields, and hence the cost of capital in the economy, rose.

Before the election it is difficult to gauge the potential upside for long bond yields over the first two years of the new parliamentary term. Speculating on the yield floor is less hazardous. It seems increasingly likely that the Bank of England's supplies at end-February of Treasury 9 per cent 2012 stock on a yield basis of just over 9 per cent were, for it at least, the sale of the year.

MICHAEL HUGHES

Barclays de Zotte Wedd

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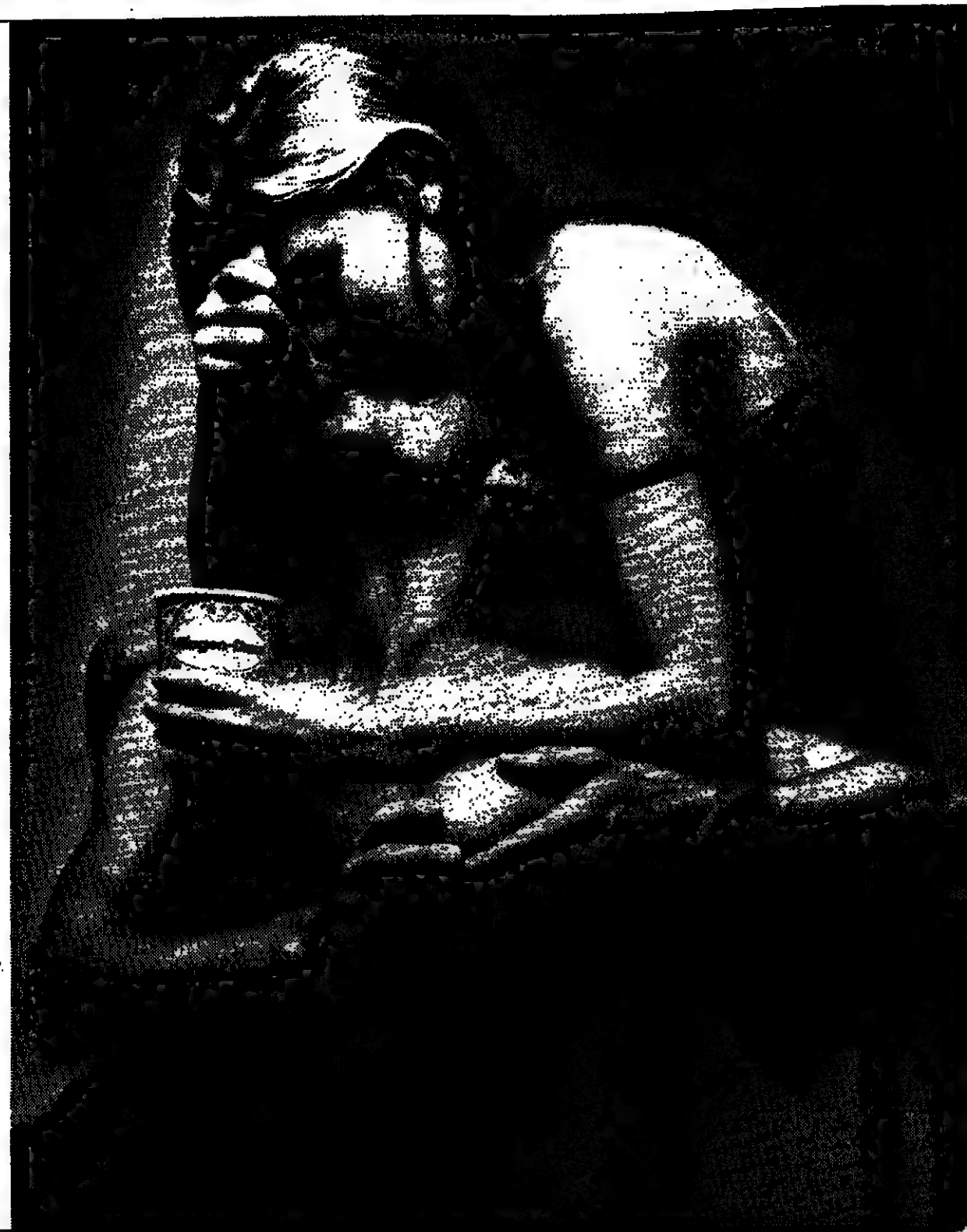


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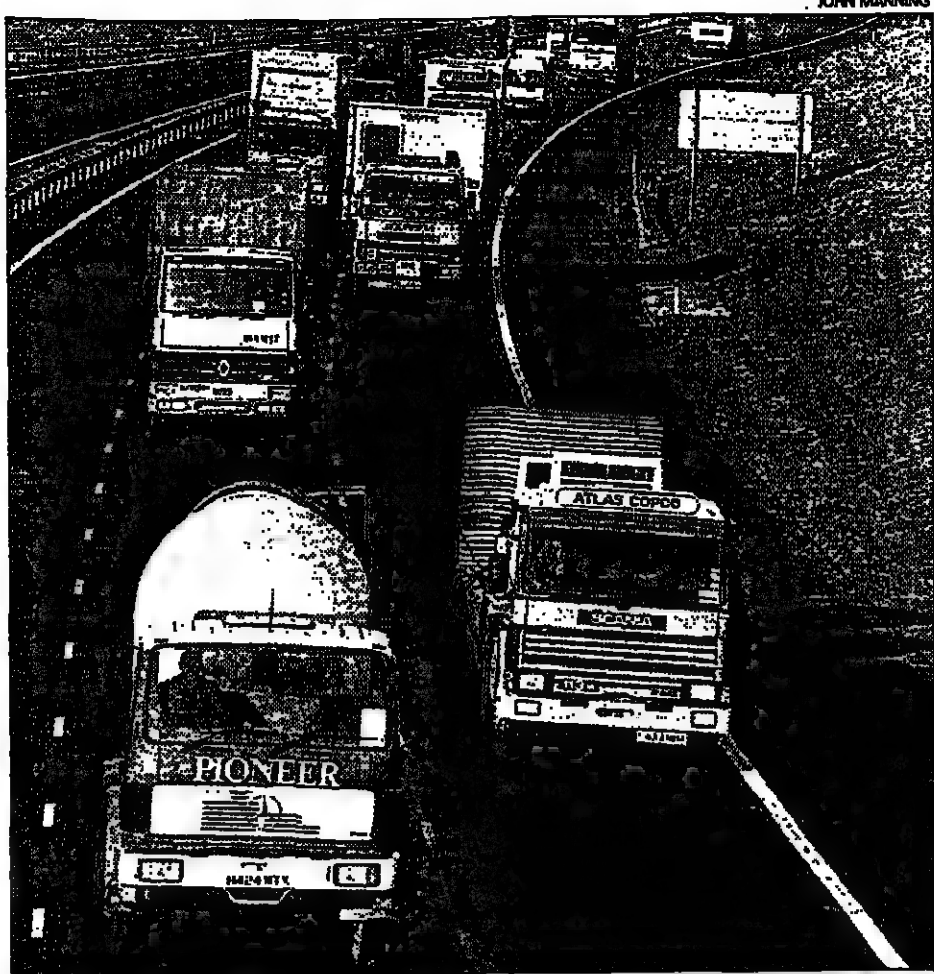






# FOCUS DISTRIBUTION

## Challenge and change as trade barriers fall



On the way: the UK spends £37 billion a year on haulage, and Europe now beckons

**R**ecession in much of the world, combined with radical change brought about by the approach of the single European market, is reshaping the pack in the essential industry of distribution. In Britain, about £37 billion are spent annually on moving 2.12 billion tons of freight, including basic commodities such as coal and ore by rail and sea, and food, clothing and other consumer goods by road and air.

Most national markets are depressed, and smaller operators especially are being driven out of business. The damage has not stopped there. Federal Express in the United States, a world leader, has been so savaged by losses in express deliveries that it has pulled out of the inter-European market, although its drive on international services, including those to Europe, continues.

In France there has been a

Depression and the single market may mean fewer companies. Derek Harris reports on a shifting market

wave of distribution business failures as costs have risen and freight rates have fallen. Domestic distributors are nervous because they fear being overrun now that deregulation is opening up France to operators from other European Community countries.

The latest *frisson* came when United Parcel Service (UPS), of the US, acquired Proton, a leading French parcels and freight distributor. This deal makes UPS one of the largest parcels distributors in France and is part of its two-prong strategy in Europe of setting up domestic delivery operations, as well as offering mostly air-based international deliveries. The most recent acquisition by UPS is Beemsterboer in The Netherlands.

Germany, until now one of the most regulated of the European markets, is slowly but painfully moving towards a less protected regime, offering fresh opportunities to competitors, including British companies.

The British P&O group has been driving into Europe, especially through its Ferry-masters road transport operation and has penetrated the German market strongly by buying the Rhenania distribution group in Mannheim.

A "substantial fall-out" of larger companies as the single market intensifies competition for large contracts is predicted by David Howes, the managing director of Edinburgh-based Christian Salvesen Distribution. Salvesen has Europe-wide as well as north

American operations, and is especially noted for chilled food distribution.

Mr Howes points out that that is what happened in the US when inter-state controls were relaxed. He adds: "Manufacturers rationalised production into giant centres in order to increase economies of scale and to improve the logistical control of supply. I can see the same thing happening in Europe as trade and geographical barriers continue to be eradicated."

Some people in distribution will fear for their future as these changes sweep in, but there will also be winners. Equal conditions for everybody will not be created too quickly. There is no common ground yet on vehicle excise or fuel taxes to benefit transport and distribution companies within the EC.

A new Europe-wide survey by the Touche Ross consultancy for the Institute of Logistics and Distribution Management (ILDIM) shows how expertise has improved.

In 1983 distribution costs were commonly reported as being between 12 and 15 per cent of sales. By 1991 companies were reporting the figure was 4 to 7 per cent.

The survey says Europe's most efficient country in transport and distribution, including warehousing, is The Netherlands, where such costs are put at 4.62 per cent of sales. The Netherlands has the advantage of being a small, densely populated country with a distribution industry that already carries a good deal of non-Dutch trade.

French costs are the highest at 7.22 per cent, so the domestic distributors may be right to have a bout of nerves.

**T**he UK cost relative to turnover is 5.18 per cent of sales and the report points to relatively high warehousing costs as an important factor behind what it describes as a "mid-dling" performance. However, the UK industry's main hurdle is seen as geographical as it sits on the edge of the European market.

The survey adds: "Most important of all perhaps is the lack in the UK of an integrated transport system, taking in especially road and rail. Our competitors are way ahead of us in this area and in the longer term it may be that it is this structural weakness which will put us at a permanent cost disadvantage."

Professor Michael Browne,

who holds Britain's first chair in distribution, does not entirely go along with these warnings.

Professor Browne holds the recently established BRS professorship in transport at the Polytechnic of Central London. BRS is a subsidiary of NFC, Britain's biggest freight and logistics company. Soon the BRS chair is likely to become part of the University of Westminster.

**P**rofessor Browne says: "Dutch trade is being well served by the logistics industry but the UK industry should not be underestimated. This is especially in terms of its ability to manage complicated transport and warehousing contracts."

He argues that the UK industry has learnt to satisfy some extremely demanding customers, including the big retailing chains and industries relying on a complexity of components. These customers are typically in vehicle manufacture but also in sectors such as electronic goods.

He says: "Such customers demand a high quality of service and strike hard bargains on price."

Those in the UK market have long become accustomed to a deregulated trading environment and this will stand them in good stead as the distribution business becomes more Europeanised, Professor Browne says.

He sees other encouraging signs. Magna Park in Leicestershire is a high-cost development but with its vast warehousing capacity — more than three million sq ft so far and about another million to come — and leading-edge systems, it is flourishing, aided especially by its exceptional location in the middle of the country.

Freight villages around the country, linking with the Channel tunnel, would dynamically bring together different forms of transport, he points out. He expects journey times to be "attractive", thanks to the combined transport systems, offsetting the effects of the UK's peripheral location.

However, he too gives a warning that cost elements could still make life quite hard for UK distributors.

The Touche Ross survey underlines the opportunities in Europe, including the Eastern economies now emerging as an economic force.

Logistics could be a potent tool there, according to Exel Logistics, part of Britain's NFC, which has helped with special studies to improve food distribution in countries of the former Soviet Union.

### National distribution park planned

## Tunnel link for business centre

POWERGEN, the electricity generating company, and Trafalgar House Business Parks, a subsidiary of the construction and shipping conglomerate, are jointly developing what they claim is Britain's first national distribution park.

The park, at Hams Hall at Coleshill, Warwickshire, will cover 440 acres and provide up to seven million sq ft of warehousing.

The scheme is likely to cost £350 million during the next ten years, and when complete it will provide jobs for up to 4,000 people. The scheme includes the Midlands Channel tunnel Railfreight terminal, which will be capable of handling more than a million tons of freight a year. The terminal will serve the east and west Midlands and would be part of a network of similar facilities proposed by British Rail to capitalise on the arrival of the single market and the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993. Railfreight expects to open the terminal towards the end of 1994.

The site is owned by PowerGen and the power station there is due to close down in November this year. Trafalgar House was chosen to be the partner from 20 local, national and international organisations.

In addition to the terminal,

future occupiers of the site will be offered the opportunity to have their own private rail sidings serving their premises direct.

The site will be developed in four phases and potential occupiers will be able to secure large parcels of land for warehousing and manufacturing operations. Hams Hall has support in principle from North Warwickshire borough council and Warwickshire county council. The site is nine miles north-east of Birmingham city centre, a mile from junction 9 of the M42 and five miles from junction 4 of the M6. It is also close to the proposed Birmingham northern relief road, which is planned to be Britain's first privately run toll motorway.

Ed Wallis, Euro market in mind

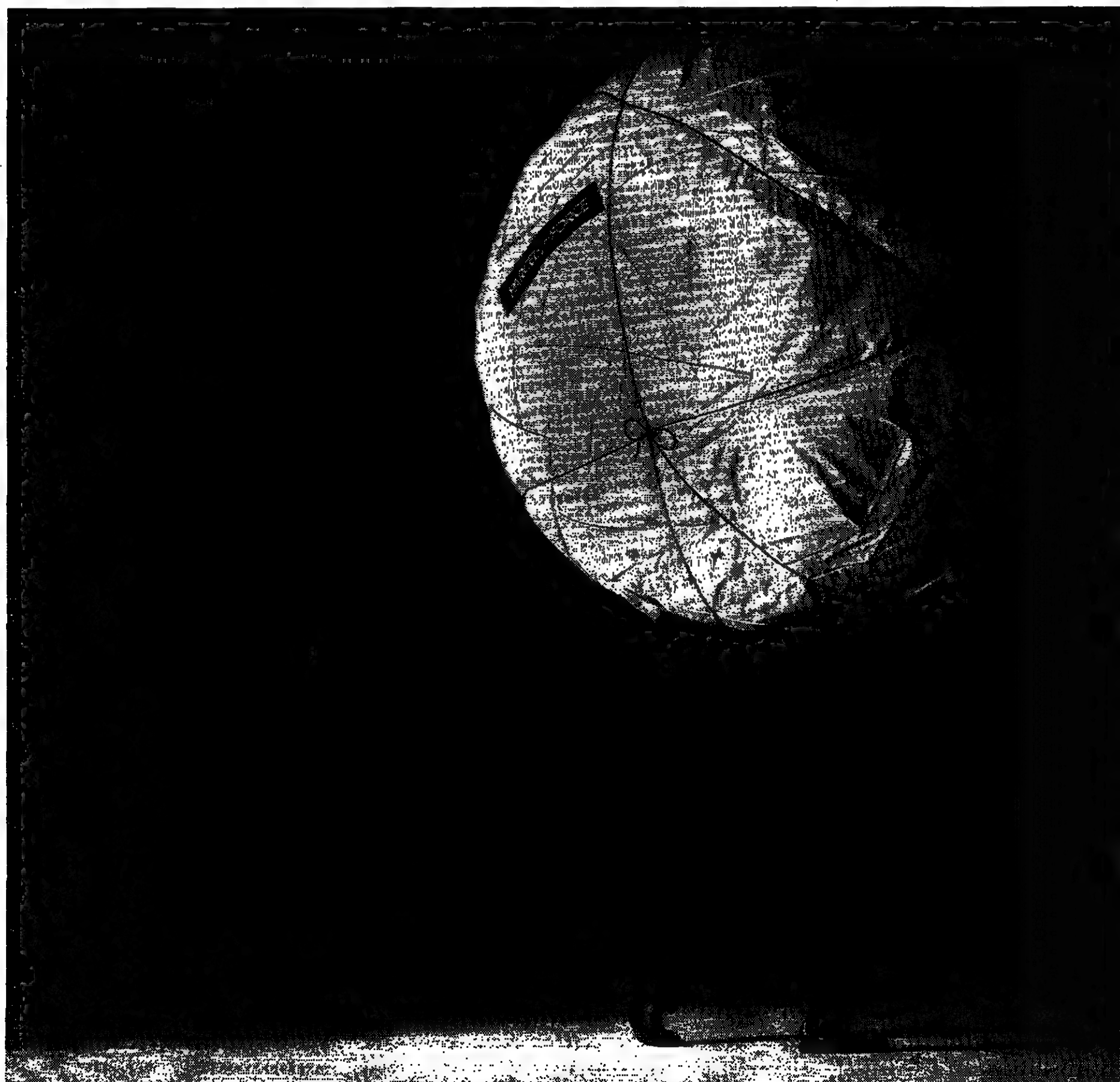
Ed Wallis, the chief executive of PowerGen, which is based in Solihull, says: "This major, long-term investment in the Midlands will enable national and Midlands industry to take full advantage of the single European market."

Brian McCombie, the managing director of Trafalgar House Business Parks, adds: "We consider this to be one of the prime development opportunities of the 1990s."

"We believe it is the most significant Channel tunnel site in the UK."

RODNEY HOBSON

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# Delivery package on offer

Rodney Hobson describes the Parcelforce plan for service

The acquisition by Securicor-Omega of the UK operations of Federal Express has put extra pressure on Parcelforce, the market leader in Britain's highly competitive parcels service.

"The market has overcapacity. It is very cut-throat in terms of pricing," says Peter Howarth, Parcelforce's managing director. He is to spend £250 million during the next five years to stay in the lead.

Parcelforce was set up as Royal Mail Parcels in 1986 when the Post Office was split into letters, parcels and counters divisions. Although it has a 30 per cent share of the parcels market, thanks partly to having 20,000 post offices as collecting centres, Parcelforce was renamed two years ago to take a step away from the parent.

Mr Howarth says: "We have had to become more self-reliant in this difficult time. There will always be a case for using the Royal Mail in rural areas, where there is a legal obligation to provide a postal service to every address every weekday. However, to develop our business we want to establish end-to-end control."

Parcelforce picks up, transports and delivers 50 per cent of its business. In the next year, it wants to see 80 per cent of parcels all the way through. Greater control should speed up delivery. At present, the standard delivery service for non-urgent items can be five days but Mr Howarth wants even the basic delivery service to be two days. Guaranteed next-day delivery is by 10am, noon or close of business, and the express services are the ones in increasing demand.

Parcelforce has 170 depots and is finding the growth area is in collecting and delivering door-to-door. It has begun a

five-year plan, with more collection centres and greater use of information technology. The company's Cab-Com system is a combination of telephone and computer, allowing the control centre to send instructions to drivers. The driver can key in confirmation of every delivery, using the bar code on a parcel.

Vehicles can be diverted to pick up parcels. Mr Howarth says: "The last thing a customer wants is to see a vehicle pass the end of his road when he has been told that you cannot get a lorry to him for a couple of hours."

The Cab-Com system has been fitted in 1,600 vehicles at a £2 million cost and priority is given to the 1,400 express delivery vehicles. A computer centre in Leeds has cost £5 million. Other investments include £1.3 million on an international hub at Heathrow airport, employing more than 50 staff. Together with the airport hub at Coventry, Parcelforce can deliver to more than 200 countries, and about 30 million parcels are sent out from the UK every year. Having an established network before the recession has helped Parcelforce to resist pressures from newcomers.

Mr Howarth reacted to a Consumers' Association report by considering whether his operation could be improved. He claims the Datapost service, promising delivery by 10am next day, has 99.8 per cent success. Other guaranteed delivery time services are 99.6 per cent successful, he says.

Mr Howarth puts a heavy emphasis on training. To build up traffic, he has had to recruit staff and retain those switching from the Royal Mail. Supervisors must gain City and Guilds management qualifications, and the spread of computers has necessitated



Part of the service: parcels pass through a BR station

information technology. The training of drivers is a priority as 2,500 vehicles are being added to the fleet of 8,500 in the next 12 months.

Parcelforce is trying to eliminate the criticism that parcels are left on doorsteps when the recipient is out. Mr Howarth says: "Customers are often happy if the parcel is left, provided it is not in the rain and does not advertise that the premises are empty. However, we are going to leave a card giving an option to redeliver at an acceptable time, take the parcel to the recipient's place of work or leave it with a

trustworthy neighbour."

The expansion of Parcelforce is not likely to involve a strong move into handling heavier goods, however. Mr Howarth says: "Normally we carry parcels up to 30kg. That is the market we see ourselves best able to manage."

"We have an arrangement with a carrier to take palletised deliveries and that way we can meet our customers' requirements. It represents about 10 per cent of our business and we do not want to turn it away."

"However, it is a useful addition to gain contracts, rather than a mainstream business."

# Chunnel gives railways a chance to win the freight

Road transport will probably continue to be the preferred transport for freight into the next century, but the opening of the Channel tunnel will give the railways a chance to fight back.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is among the organisations saying that any transport strategy must address the issue of a sensible division between alternative methods, capitalising on the advantages of each while maintaining competition.

The CBI says rail is effective at moving freight on long distances and moving bulk commodities over short distances, Rodney Hobson writes.

The opening of the tunnel will allow rail to compete effectively with roads on long hauls. The CBI says: "It is vital to ensure good road access at either end, since door-to-door journey times are what count. Diversion of some freight from road to rail will help to relieve road congestion on inter-urban routes and yield environmental benefits."

Freight can also be won from airlines with rapid city-centre links between London, Paris and Brussels.

British Rail is to spend more than £500 million at 1986

Rail can compete effectively with roads on long hauls, says the CBI



Diversion of freight to rail will relieve road congestion

prices on rolling stock and infrastructure. This will ensure that up to 35 freight trains a day, as well as passenger trains, can be operated when the tunnel opens next year.

The CBI says: "To succeed

investment in the facilities, such as wagons, sidings and loading equipment necessary to link up to the railway network, represents a long-term commitment for companies.

The CBI says it is unrealistic to assume that more than a small proportion of freight will travel end to end entirely by rail. However, it will be possible to develop combined transport with rail, giving speedy links between regional hubs throughout Europe.

The tunnel will give the opportunity in Britain for rail routes to bypass London, but that will mean substantial investment. The Community of European Railways, which groups the 12 European Community railways plus Switzerland and Austria, has put forward an ambitious proposal for a high-speed network which could be linked to Britain through the tunnel.

The Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français, the French railway, believes goods traffic through the tunnel should reach 16.4 million tons a year. Unfortunately the required infrastructure in the UK may not be in place before the end of the century. The cost of converting the whole network would be prohibitive.

Chilled-food transport services are booming in the supermarket age

Tougher European Community regulations and the growing market for prepared foods sold by supermarket chains have led to a boom in chilled-food distribution services.

Specialists in the field say that retailers are moving to shorter lead-times for smaller, more frequent deliveries, even for longer-life products.

Some distributors are using the gradual harmonisation of health rules and expertise gained in the UK to help British and American companies expand on the Continent.

A typical example of the growth of chilled-food distribution is provided by Marks & Spencer, which uses a BOC subsidiary, Transfield, to distribute 90 per cent of its fresh and chilled food products from regional centres to stores in the UK.

# Licence to chill

Transfield operates solely for M&S, with 1,800 employees and a dedicated fleet of 340 vehicles.

On the Continent, M&S uses Temperature Controlled Services, a subsidiary of Exel Logistics. In Spain, a warehousing and distribution contract with Marks & Spencer covers all products including temperature-controlled food for the Madrid store. Exel also operates a multi-temperature warehousing and distribution contract for Marks & Spencer in France.

Exel, which has 32 million cubic feet of controlled temperature storage capacity in 24 depots throughout the UK, operates a fleet of about 600 vehicles and employs 2,300 people.

Success in Britain has led to a push into the Continent. Last year the company launched the Exel brand in France, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands as well as the United States.

Exel has also won contracts with American companies distributing chilled foods on the Continent. A German subsidiary, Restaurant Services, was launched in September and handles business for customers including Burger King and Pizza Hut.

BOC Baker, a BOC subsidiary, specialises in distributing chilled foods to major retail chains. The company has five modern, strategically-placed distribution centres and 150 temperature-controlled vehicles.

des. BOC is counting on its new Polarstream hybrid refrigerated trailer to give it an edge.

The vehicle has traditional mechanical refrigeration plus a liquid nitrogen system. Using liquid nitrogen allows temperatures to be reduced quickly and give more accurate temperature control. There is also less movement of air in the storage compartment, an advantage in transporting products where freshness is affected by oxygen.

Lorry drivers can switch between the two systems or operate both at the same time.

Peter Brinsden, managing director of BOC Distribution Services, says: "The Polarstream system is silent and simple to operate, has virtually no moving parts and does not use CFCs."

RODNEY HOBSON

# Just made to measure

WITH the spread of business parks, companies are paying greater attention to setting up purpose-built distribution centres in key locations. Apart from seeking better infrastructure and availability of space, the main advantage of such premises is that they can be designed with higher bays or other means to facilitate stacking. Rodney Hobson writes.

An example is the Risley (near Manchester) operation of Securicor-Omega, the parcel delivery company. It provides 20,000 sq ft of storage space capable of taking 1,450 pallets, and has been designed for companies needing seasonal stockpiles such as for Christmas. Easter or the start of school terms. Warehousing services are fully computerised. Securicor-Omega also had its 10,000 sq ft facility at Corby, Northamptonshire, purpose-built to serve one of

Purpose-built warehousing helps business efficiency

the world's largest electrical component manufacturers.

Donald Murray (Paper) was able to make the most economic use of space at its Glasgow 72,000 sq ft distribution centre by building high eaves and narrow aisles. The centre distributes 200 tons of paper and board products daily among its 3,000 customers nationwide. Using narrow aisles allows 64 rows of racking, each nearly 45 yards long and 12 yards high. This provides 15,000 pallet positions, with a storage capacity of 12,500 tons.

WH Smith, the retailer of

reading matter and stationery, has revolutionised its service to customers by building its Swindon warehouse to meet its needs. About 60 per cent of total sales by value and 90 per cent by volume are serviced by central warehousing.

WH Smith says that the advantage of a central channel of distribution, which it operates itself, is the control of the level of service that it provides. A central channel also makes life easier for WH Smith's the company's suppliers.

Swindon has 280,000 sq ft of warehousing with up to 290 staff picking from 40,000 lines. During the busy period — from October to January — Swindon sends out 500,000 items a week. The typical WH Smith branch will carry 60,000 lines and Swindon is linked to the electronic point of sale, giving computerised control over delivery needs.



Brought to book: the 280,000 sq ft WH Smith warehouse at Swindon, where up to 290 staff pick from 40,000 lines, and are able to send out 500,000 items a week

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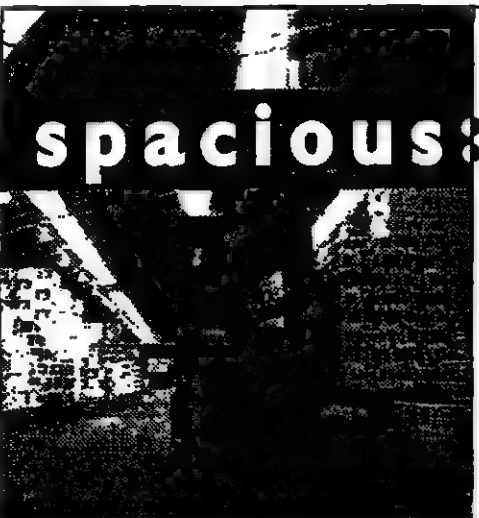
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## GOLF

# Forsbrand flawless as he keeps his title

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDERS Forsbrand, runner-up to Ronan Rafferty in Portugal last weekend, made a successful defence of the Volvo Open in Florence yesterday, when two rounds were played because of earlier delays caused by rain.

Forsbrand, who will be 31 on Wednesday, did not drop a stroke in rounds of 67 and 66 which gave him a four-round total of 271 and victory by a single stroke over Peter Senior of Australia.

Forsbrand, who had just one bogey in his last 67 holes, gave much of the credit for his success to "all the hard work" he had put in over the last two years changing his swing with David Leadbetter.

"For a spell today I played as good as I can - and I think that's as good as anybody in the world," Forsbrand said, after receiving his cheque for £37,500.

After helping Sweden win the Dunhill and World Cups last season, he has started this campaign with six top 12 finishes in eight starts and is now fourth in the European money list with £108,000.

He will not be in the US Masters starting line-up next week, but he will be at Augusta commenting for Swedish television. "Hopefully it won't be long before I'm there playing," Forsbrand said.

Rafferty beat Forsbrand by holing a 35ft birdie putt at the 18th last week and for most of the afternoon it looked as though the Swede might be denied again. After a hat-trick of birdies from the fifth had put him one in front,

Senior, replied in kind. But then the Australian, who was third in the Portuguese Open, dropped shots at the 7th, 12th, 14th and 16th.

When Forsbrand found the green at the 504-yard final hole with a two-iron and three-wood, and two-putted for a birdie, Senior, playing three matches behind, knew he had to birdie the final three holes to tie. It proved just beyond him.

He made an eight-footer on the 16th, but missed from 30 feet on the next and then had to eagle the last. That was never on from the moment his drive hit a tree and the ten-footer he sank for birdie did not matter.

Surrey's Martin Gates also had a share of the lead with four to play. But he was angry not to be given relief from a ditch on the long 15th and ran up a double bogey seven. He then took six down the last but still finished third.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (68 and below unless stated): 271: A Forsbrand (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 272: D Senior (A), 68, 68, 69, 67; 273: M Gates (S), 69, 67, 67, 69; 274: P Senior (A), 67, 67, 67, 73; 275: E Romero (Arg), 70, 69, 68; 276: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 277: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 278: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 279: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 280: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 281: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 282: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 283: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 284: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 285: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 286: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 287: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 288: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 289: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 290: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 291: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 292: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 293: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 294: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 295: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 296: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 297: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 298: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 299: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67; 300: J L Taylor (S), 69, 67, 67, 67.



Bobby dazler: Graham Gooch

autographs a policeman's notebook at Gatwick airport after the England cricket team returned from Australia yesterday (two Tassant writes). Gooch will be reappointed as the England captain in a fortnight's time.

"Obviously we want him to carry on against Pakistan this summer," said Dexter, the chairman of the selection committee, said. "He has established himself as a very important figure in our cricket."

Greeted by his wife, three children and parents, the weary Gooch said that he would "obviously" like

to continue to play for England. He would not be drawn on whether he would be available to tour India next winter.

"Whether he will be game for that remains to be seen," Dexter said. "But, remember, he was in doubt for the tour of New Zealand and he made that. He didn't have the best winter with the bat but will be working hard to get back into form."

"Graham is a strong man who has inspired a very good spirit in the side. He is very direct and has no favourites. Whatever his abilities, if he thinks he has to drop

someone he will do so. We want to get our captain in place for the summer as soon as possible."

Referring to the ruling over stoppages for rain, which affected England's World Cup semi-final with South Africa, Dexter said: "I don't know whether anyone has come up with a good solution. The regulations for the tournament were set in difficult circumstances, with South Africa coming in at a late stage. The Test and County Cricket Board approved of them - with difficulty. We did seek clarification."

Looking to England's Test

matches this summer, Gooch said that Pakistan were "a very dangerous side with four or five world-class players". He will have only a short break before pre-season training with Essex.

Dexter said that relations between England and the volatile Pakistanis should not become strained during the summer. "Our umpires are more than capable of handling affairs and having a match referee is an excellent innovation," he said. "There wasn't a great deal to complain about in the World Cup. Our team behaved in an exemplary way."

## Javed could miss tour of England

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

KARACHI: Javed Miandad, Pakistan's leading batsman, said yesterday that he might not take part in this summer's tour of England. "I will assess my fitness and other aspects before making a final decision," he said after arriving home with the rest of the victorious World Cup squad.

Last night the players flew to Saudi Arabia to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Bombay: Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian Test batsman, has confirmed that he has been approached by Yorkshire about becoming their first overseas player.

"Some things have yet to be discussed. I have not yet made up my mind," he said yesterday (Reuters).

## England A falter before new ball

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ENGLAND A, 2-0 down in the series and needing quick runs to have any chance to win, were held firmly in check by the new ball yesterday when the third unofficial Test match continued here.

Much depended on Mark Ramprakash, but he could manage only four further runs in 75 minutes before he played on against Walsh. Ramprakash batted six-and-a-quarter hours and faced 252 balls for his 86, which included seven fours.

Forwards, his overnight partner, struggled on until shortly after lunch, when Gray dismissed both Rhodes and the captain in successive overs.

By mid-afternoon England were 316 for eight wickets.

Ramprakash and Morris added 145 in 61 overs for the fifth wicket and redeemed an uncertain start on Saturday after England were put in. They came together half an hour before tea and Morris, in particular, played as fluently as he has done on the tour.

Ramprakash, though, was never less than watchful as he desperately sought the big score both he and his team needed. England, resuming at 260 for four yesterday, needed to accelerate if they were to bowl West Indies A out twice but this proved impossible as Benjamin, Gray and Walsh revelled in the fastest pitch encountered on the tour.

Morris was dropped at the start against Benjamin at the slip and by the wicketkeeper

against Gray. Ramprakash had made a two and two singles before he blocked a full-length ball from Walsh and it rolled back into his stumps. Johnson had been dismissed the same way against Benjamin.

A heavy shower brought a 15-minute hold-up as soon as Rhodes got to the wicket and by lunch England had added 41 in 21 overs. After lunch, however, Rhodes was caught behind off a glove against a lifting ball. Morris was also pulled by Murray as he tried to pull another rising ball. Walsh followed by having Munton leg-before.

ENGLAND A First Innings  
D J Richardson c Murray b Gray 18  
D J Richardson not out 18  
T A Munton b Gray 18  
R A Poot not out 18  
Total (8 wickets) 258  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-52, 3-53, 4-145, 5-260, 6-306, 7-306, 8-316, 9-316, 10-316, 11-316, 12-316, 13-316, 14-316, 15-316, 16-316, 17-316, 18-316, 19-316, 20-316, 21-316, 22-316, 23-316, 24-316, 25-316, 26-316, 27-316, 28-316, 29-316, 30-316, 31-316, 32-316, 33-316, 34-316, 35-316, 36-316, 37-316, 38-316, 39-316, 40-316, 41-316, 42-316, 43-316, 44-316, 45-316, 46-316, 47-316, 48-316, 49-316, 50-316, 51-316, 52-316, 53-316, 54-316, 55-316, 56-316, 57-316, 58-316, 59-316, 60-316, 61-316, 62-316, 63-316, 64-316, 65-316, 66-316, 67-316, 68-316, 69-316, 70-316, 71-316, 72-316, 73-316, 74-316, 75-316, 76-316, 77-316, 78-316, 79-316, 80-316, 81-316, 82-316, 83-316, 84-316, 85-316, 86-316, 87-316, 88-316, 89-316, 90-316, 91-316, 92-316, 93-316, 94-316, 95-316, 96-316, 97-316, 98-316, 99-316, 100-316, 101-316, 102-316, 103-316, 104-316, 105-316, 106-316, 107-316, 108-316, 109-316, 110-316, 111-316, 112-316, 113-316, 114-316, 115-316, 116-316, 117-316, 118-316, 119-316, 120-316, 121-316, 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899-316, 900-316, 901-316, 902-316, 903-316, 904-316, 905-316, 906-316, 907-316, 908-316, 909-316, 910-316, 911-316, 912-316, 913-316, 914-316, 915-316, 916-316, 917-316, 918-316, 919-316, 920-316, 921-316, 922-316, 923-316, 924-3











# Docklands Express given the all-clear

By MICHAEL SEELY

UNLESS the weather deteriorates dramatically before the weekend, the heavily-backed Docklands Express will take his chance in Saturday's Martell Grand National.

The winner of Kempton's Racing Post Chase and subsequent Cheltenham Gold Cup third will not therefore be re-routed to Thursday's Martell Chase for which Kings Fountain is a possible runner for the Kim Bailey stable.

Yesterday, the trainer and Compton Hellyer, one of the 10-year-old's owners, drove from Lambourn to Liverpool through driving rain. "We walked the whole of the course and were amazed at what good condition it was in," said Bailey.

"Although it was soft, there were good soft patches. Unless there is torrential rain, he definitely runs. Apart from tonight, the forecast for the rest of the week is good."

Although Docklands Express is known to be at his most effective on fast going, the gelding, together with Cool Ground, is one of the best handicapped horses in the National. With only 11st 2lb to carry, last year's first-fence faller will never be so leniently treated again.

Kings Fountain, who was travelling so well when unseating Anthony Tully at the seventh fence from home in the Gold Cup, has now recovered from the pulled muscles over his quarters sustained during the accident.

"We are schooling him tomorrow," Bailey went on. "If all goes well, we favour the three-mile Martell Cup rather than the two-and-a-half mile Mumm Melling Chase on Friday."

The nine possible opponents for Thursday's race include Arctic Call, Spandling Flame, Pat's Jester and Mr Entertainer. The race should take less winning than Friday's feature for which Reliance Man and Blazing Walker are under orders.

Docklands Express has eased to 10-1 with William Hill. But the proven soft-ground specialist, Cool Ground and Twin Oaks, are top quoted at 6-1 and 8-1 respectively. Other best prices are as follows: 12-1 Brown Windsor, 14-1 Laura's Beau, 16-1 Annie Dot and Party Politics.

At Whitcombe, Cool Ground, the favourite, looked in impressive shape on Saturday.

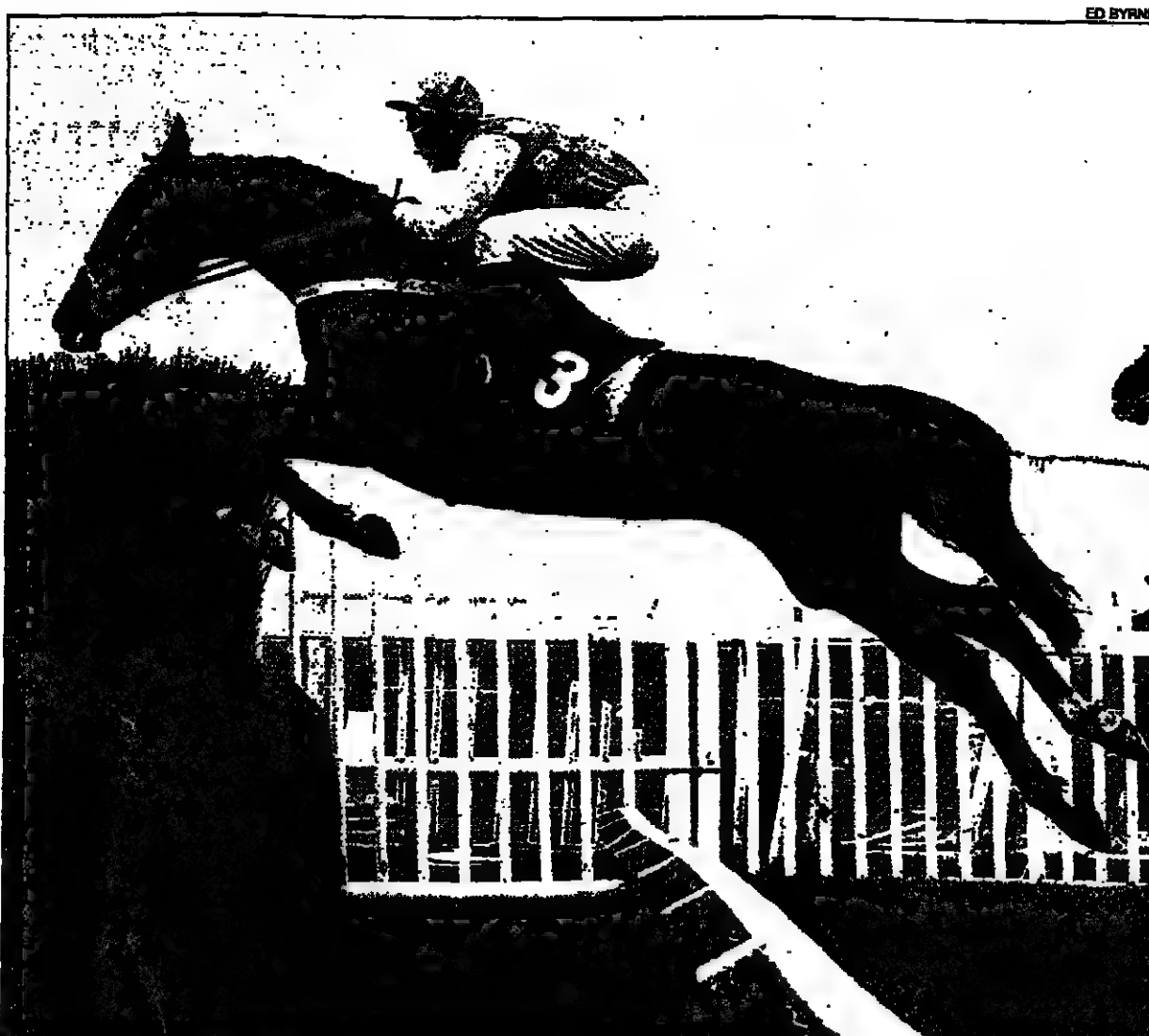
Partnered by Adrian McGuire, the Gold Cup winner worked seven furlongs with Roman King, also an intended National runner, and Belmont Captain. "The horse is on a tremendous high and we're very hopeful," Toby Balding said.

Also on view at Peter Bolton's impressive training complex was Morley Street, who quickened away impressively from some inferior stable companions.

Yesterday, Balding confirmed that Richard Dunwoody will replace Jimmy Frost on the 1991 champion hurdler, who disappointed when only fifth behind Royal Gait in this month's running of the race.

Michael Jackson, Morley Street's owner, considers that Frost overdid the waiting tactics at Cheltenham. "Frost would say that the horse wasn't at his peak and wasn't firing," commented Balding, diplomatically, "but these things have happened in racing before and I'm afraid they will happen again."

Folkstone, scheduled for today, has been cancelled because of a waterlogged course.



Prodigious leap: Hey Cottage and Graham McCourt on their way to a 33-1 victory at Ascot on Saturday

## Morris believes Rawhide is the leading Irish hope

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

LAURA'S Beau was backed from 20-1 to 12-1 for Saturday's Martell Grand National but Michael Morris believes that the horse has the potential to be the leading Irish hope.

"My horse Rawhide has always been better than Laura's Beau," the Co. Fermanagh trainer said. "At his current price of 50-1, he certainly looks the value."

At Cheltenham last year, Morris's little chestnut finished fourth, 12½ lengths in front of Laura's Beau, in the Sun Alliance Chase won by Rolling Ball.

This season, Rawhide came over for the Hennessy Cognac Gold at Newbury but was pulled up due to a broken blood vessel. However, Morris is confident that his horse is back to his best.

"I was well pleased with his recent second at Fairyhouse where Kevin O'Brien rode," Morris added. "Kevin gets on better with him than my stable jockey, Charlie

Swan, and will ride at Liverpool."

The eight-year-old lacks experience of the National but Morris has made sure that he knows what to expect. "I built a National-type fence at home, which I have popped him over," said the former jockey.

"I would have no qualms about riding him myself, despite his lack of size. He's a horse that could just take to the race. We certainly could do with a change of luck."

Morris's recent bad luck was in evidence again at Ascot on Saturday when Trapper John would have won the Lethbridge & Christopher Long Distance Hurdle in another few strides. Victory went to Peter Scudamore on Praga.

Scudamore has yet to finalise his National ride. The champion jockey is expected to choose one of the three Martin Pipe-trained runners — Omerta, Bonanza Boy and Huntworth.

Graham McCourt sealed his National partnership with the Ginger McCain-trained Hotplate after landing a gamble on Hey Cottage for McCain in the Golden Eagle Novices' Chase.

Hey Cottage, backed from 100-1 in the morning to 33-1, was to have been ridden by Graham Bradley but McCain persuaded McCourt to switch from the seemingly better fancied 9-4 chance, Rough Quest.

Hey Cottage, an Altiree hope for next season, gave McCain his first Ascot success in 40 years' training. Nicky Henderson, who can usually be relied upon to plunder the Ascot prizes, had to endure a miserable afternoon.

THE Caroline Saunders stable provided the first two horses home in division one of The Times Championship qualifier at the Grafton point-to-point on Saturday.

Fedneyhill, with sister-in-law Tick Saunders aboard, led from the fourth fence and going to the last, but before Johnnie Greenall took over on Sunny Mount and went on to win by six lengths.

Over the last mile in the second division, many thought Ian McKie had chosen wrongly by deciding to ride The Malakarna rather than Sprucefield as Nigel Ridout, on the reject, continually repelled his challenge.

McKie, however, was proved right as, after being led into the last, The Malakarna got the better of Sprucefield by a length.

## Northants fit to pick up winning thread on the Flat

MANDARIN

NORTHANTS, successful over hurdles this National Hunt season, is napped to translate that form to the Flat in the At The Circus Handicap at Newcastle today.

Although Northants has not run on the Flat for around 17 months, he was a good-class handicapper three seasons ago when trained by Susan Piggott. In 1989 he won a competitive handicap at Doncaster off a handicap rating of 84 but here has to run off a mark of only 49.

There is little recent evidence to confirm that the handicapper has let Northants in lightly, but there are grounds for siding with the six-year-old. His latest run, over this course and distance in November 1990, was a creditable third to Cabochon, who won at Royal Ascot the following year.

Since then Northants has developed into a useful handicap hurdler, suggesting that he has retained his ability. This trip, on a testing track, should suit him.

This, though, is a tricky handicap and dangers abound. Bolin Magdalene was beaten only a short head by Gladstondale at Catterick last week but she looked a

little unwilling to pass the leader in the closing stages. She could well start favourite but is likely to represent poor value and is worth opposing.

Moment Of Truth, sparingly raced on the Flat, is a smart chaser and he too cannot be dismissed lightly, but the greatest danger could be the consistent Deb's Ball. Although she has top weight, her three wins last term suggested that she may still have some improvement to come.

I Perceive can follow up his Doncaster win ten days ago by landing the Duck Soup Handicap. He was always travelling well when beating Phil-Blake by seven lengths.

Amron is another to come here fresh from a win at Doncaster's opening meeting and can complete a quick double in the Go West Sprint Handicap. He holds Never So Sure — 9lb better off for a four-and-a-half length beating at Doncaster — but Lynda Ramsden's charge could exploit any flaw in Amron.

Viarde, third to Hill Glitter at Newmarket last term, should take the Animal Crackers Maiden Stakes.

## Sunny Mount helps Saunders land one-two at the Grafton

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BEEL

Larry The Lamb blundered his chance away at the eleventh but his rider, Jim Tarry, had a most satisfactory afternoon otherwise, winning on Fine Lace (confined), Grecian Saint (maiden, division one) and True Bloom in the open.

Final Spring and Julian Prichard won the Thru's qualifier at the Grafton. Teams, more easily than the two-length margin over Guld Street (Mike Hammond) would suggest.

Fox Grove came from a long way back for Tim Richards to occupy third place, half-a-length behind.

There was a double defeat at this well-organised meeting for Alison Dare. On Hazelle's Delight in the ladies she tried to make all, but succumbed by half-a-length in the last few strides to Jane

Fellows on Pikeman, while long-time leader, Risk Another, faded in the BMW confined won by Lee Sanders on Well Delayed.

Nick Banister's task on Jack Dwyer in division one of The Times race at the Cheeser was made easier after many of the fancied runners came to grief. The included the favourite, Equus Play, on whom Robert Collis was deputising for Alistair Crow, still out of action after being kicked at Eaton Hall a fortnight ago.

Wally Wrekin, going well in the lead in the second division, slipped up on the bend after one circuit. Bodari, always handy, was the eventual winner, under Rob Jones, followed home by The Artful Rascal (William Barlow) and Asphaltilly (Chris Stockton).



Dunwoody: teams up with Morley Street

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.30 Saddlehome.	2.30 Saddlehome.	2.30 TAUFAN BLU (nap).
3.00 Amron.	3.00 Never So Sure.	3.00 Brocton Crc. (nap).
3.30 NORTHANTS (nap).	3.30 Brocton Crc. (nap).	3.00 Never So Sure.
4.00 Silver Samur.	4.00 Feeling Foolish.	4.30 Viardot.
4.30 Viardot.	4.30 VIARDOT (nap).	
5.00 I Perceive.	5.00 Be The Best.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 BOLLIN MAGDALENE. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 Sure To Win. 4.30 VIARDOT (nap). 5.00 Count Barachois.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-8F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.30 MONKEY BUSINESS MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y.O. 22.07.92) (4 runners)	
1 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.	2 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.
3 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.	4 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.
5 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.	6 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.

BETTING: 5-4 Taufan Blu, 7-4 Saddlehome, 7-4 Vile La Roi, 6-1 Sally Tadpole. 1991: TAB 9-0 M Roberts (2-1 fav) C Bally 8 m

FORM FOCUS	
1 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.	2 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.
3 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.	4 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.
5 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.	6 (4) 02855- SADDLEHOME 182 (yds) (Spartan) (M) Whitaker 9-0.

3.00 GO WEST SPRINT HANDICAP (22.820.5) (8 runners)	
1 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.	2 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.
3 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.	4 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.
5 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.	6 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.

BETTING: 7-4 Never So Sure, 5-2 Amron, 5-2 Macrobian, 6-1 Sigaama, 6-1 Real Stunner, 10-1 Breeze. 1991: TAB 5-4 D. O'Leary (100-30) M W Searley 11 m

FORM FOCUS	
1 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.	2 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.
3 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.	4 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.
5 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.	6 (2) 02855- MACROBIAN 244 (C.F.G.) (M) H. McGroarty 8-10-0.

3.30 AT THE CIRCUS HANDICAP (22.820.5) (14 runners)	
1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

BETTING: 5-2 Bolla Magdalene, 11-2 Needwood Muppet, 6-1 Brocton Grey, 7-1 Sula, 6-1 Northants, 10-1 Dab's Ball, 12-1 W. Hill, 12-1 K-Brigade, 14-1 Dancer, 14-1 others. 1991: ST ARLOA 4-6 M Hill (7-3) M Bell 11 m

FORM FOCUS	
1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

3.30 AT THE CIRCUS HANDICAP (22.820.5) (14 runners)	
1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

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1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

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1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

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1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

3.30 AT THE CIRCUS HANDICAP (22.820.5) (14 runners)	
1 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	2 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

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3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

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3 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	4 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.
5 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.	6 (7) 02855- DEB'S BALL BLU (C.F.G.) (M) F. F. Lee 6-4.

4.00 HORSE FEATHERS CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y.O. 22.07.92) (11 runners)	
1 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.	2 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.
3 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.	4 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.
5 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.	6 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.

4.30 ANIMAL CRACKERS MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y.O. 22.07.92) (7 runners)	
1 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.	2 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.
3 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.	4 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.
5 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.	6 (3) 02855- SURVIVOR 44 (S.G.) (M) S. Brown 8-10-0.

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SCIENCE  
What has  
gone wrong at  
the New  
Scientist?



# LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

1X

A



SPECIAL OFFER  
Big savings on  
luxury hotel  
weekend  
breaks: page 8

## The selling of the Prince of Wales

DIANA LEADBETTER

From holistic medicine to holey cheese, Prince Charles has a view. But, Kate Muir says, a much more profound side of the king in waiting is about to be marketed

"It is usual to think of him as a typical figure of Victorian England, the keeper of the artistic conscience of his country... in building and decoration. Nevertheless, his acceptance as a prophet in art was not immediate. Though a substantial part of his criticism was written before he was 35, he was considered to be something of an amateur, a rich dilettante, until after he was 50... His puritanical conscience never let him rest easy in the enjoyment of his unearned wealth."

That was part of a potted biography of John Ruskin, the writer, critic and artist, but it could just as easily be applied to the present Prince of Wales, the orator, critic and (amateur) artist. Lacking a Ruskin or even a Bertrand Russell in these times of thinning British intellectual debate, propped up here and there by Americans such as Francis Fukuyama, we are left with Prince Charles as one of the few non-political figures around who can still cause a commotion.

Indeed, the man is only truly happy when he is poking his finger in pies where it is least expected. His staff say he refers to himself variously as a "one-man NGO" (non-governmental organisation), "a single person pressure group" and "a catalyst". He talks of his "battles with the Establishment", as though he were not part of it. He once said that he rather enjoyed "throwing a proverbial royal brick through the inviting plate glass of pompous professional pride".

As the Prince's own all-encompassing philosophy takes final shape, the targets for such brickings have grown, and so has the furor caused. But the problem remains that his multiple campaigns — on architecture, the environment, philanthropy, complementary medicine, education, art, organic agriculture, and most recently, tyrophilia (cheese-loving) — suggest flightiness. Should these be interpreted as evidence of galloping eclecticism, or expressions of a consistent theory?

Prince Charles would plump for the latter. He is irritated that a philosophy of life which is clear to him should be so muddled by others; that he should be lampooned as "cranky", "dotty", "mystical" and "New Age", when all the while he is thumping away on the same theme. He is completely misinterpreted as frustrated and in search of a role, according to his private secretaries. In fact, he has found that role and has embarked, as princes tend to, on a crusade.

That much may be obvious to him, but his subjects deserve an explanation. It is felt by those who run the Prince's affairs and char-

ities. So The Firm has decided to market one of its more paradoxical products. The Prince's seemingly disparate activities are to be sold to the public as a single concept, with a logo of a crowned letter C, and a slogan along the lines of "An initiative of the Prince of Wales".

Like any large conglomerate, the Royal Family has recognised the need for packaging. The marketing effort is largely aimed at the eight principal organisations of the Prince, which include The Prince's Trust and Youth Business Trust, Business in the Community, the Advisory Group on Disability and Business Leaders' Forum. With an income of £21m a year, 400 staff and 7,000 volunteers between them, they ought to have a higher profile.

Constitutionally, Prince Charles's role is as heir to the throne but, in fact, there is a whole third area of campaigning work going on, and his cohorts are presently toying with different

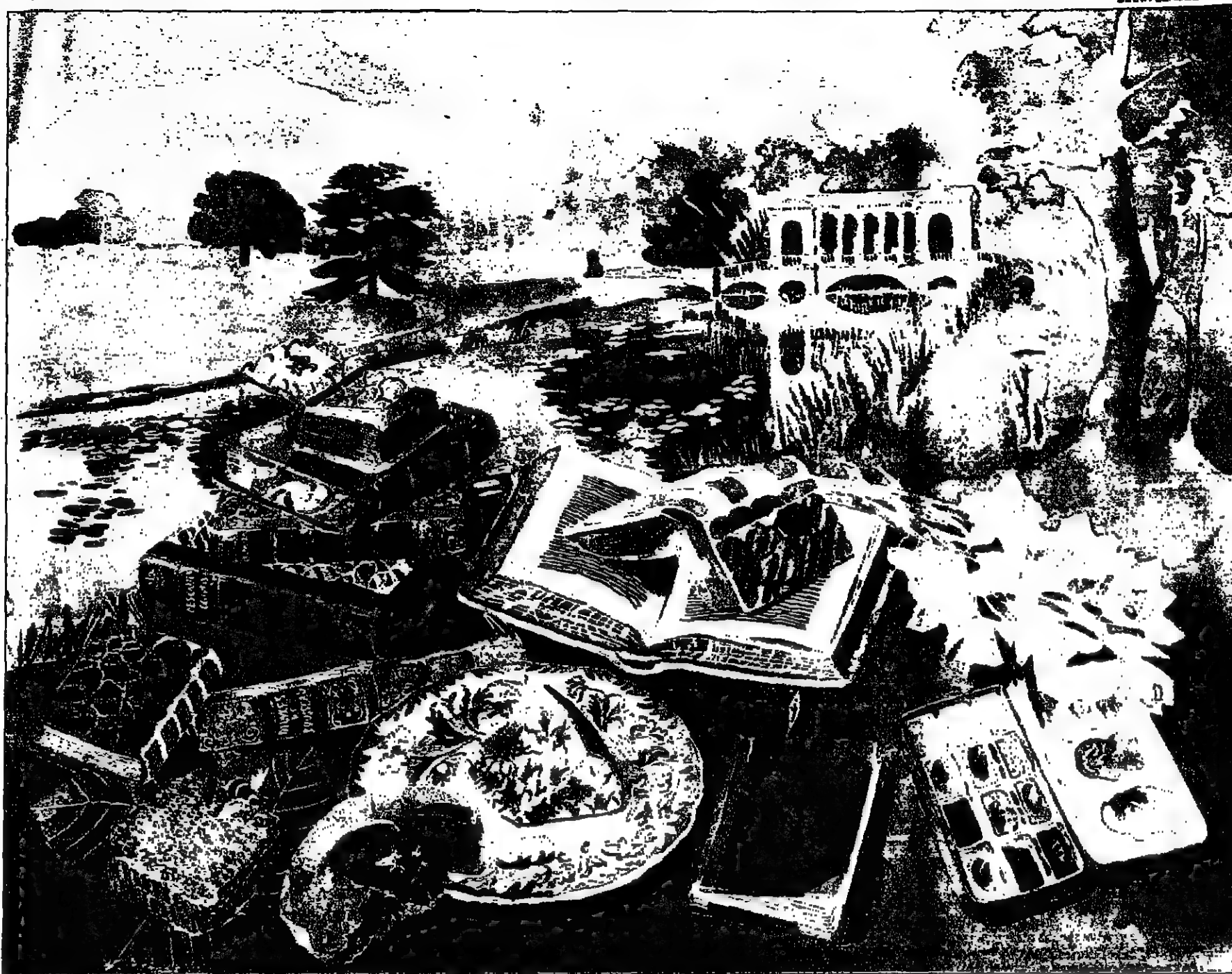
ways of marketing what one refers to as "HRI's Big Idea". So far, they — and he — have not found the phrase which encapsulates it. Thus it was only sensible that we, as subjects, should join the royal mission to explain. Aided by the Prince's private office and some of his lay advisers, it might be possible to grope towards a conclusion.

The recent speeches were a good place to begin. The palace offered entire filling cabinets of them. Cited out of context in newspapers

aroused by headlines such as "monstrous carbuncle" and "architectural Luftwaffe", they mean little, but read in full they are worthwhile. Almost without exception, they are anti-materialist, and reject what the Prince perceives as the soulless, amoral and mechanistic modern world. Few are without a quote from Wordsworth, Shakespeare, Plato or Eliot. All espouse a cosmology which is daringly unfashionable.

"We must attend to the more profound and timeless values which are always the hallmark of true civilisation," he tells an audience at Budapest University in 1990. Throughout its trials "the soul of Hungary and of nearly every individual Hungarian has remained alive, free and, if anything, stronger than would have otherwise been the case... Never lose that spirit and inner identity, I beg of you."

Back in Marylebone, London, addressing doctors, he adds: "What I am in favour of is the harnessing of the best aspects of ancient and modern medicine to contribute towards the most effective healing of the patient's mind and body. And to psychiatrists: 'I believe we need to be reminded occasionally that wisdom has a far more profound meaning than just the acquisition of knowledge in the mod-



An idealist looking for an idyll? According to his private secretaries, the Prince of Wales found his role a long time ago, and has now embarked upon a crusade

ern scientific-materialist sense." On the environmental front, he tells farmers that they are not running "just another business" but are engaged in the "long-term stewardship of a precious natural resource". He asks businessmen to deny themselves "some of the pleasures and conveniences of the consumer society" in the interests of saving the global environment for future generations.

There is no question of a speechwriter providing these consistent pleas for the return of the soul. These are the Prince's own words, although he consults an ever-changing round table of unpaid experts on the subject of each speech. After all, who else would risk such bad jokes or phrases like "bacteriologically correct" and "the malformed Gruyere de Comté, the odorous Font L'Eveque" when condemning the bureaucratisation of cheese?

Some speeches reveal more than others. One, in January this year at the inauguration of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture is "most significant", according to Kathleen Raine, the poet and friend of Laurens van der Post who has published the Prince's theories in her *Temenos* magazine. The speech mattered so much to the Prince, he spent the night rewriting it, and more than anything else, it explains his crusade.

He begins with his unspoken fears, when younger, that there seemed to be an orchestrated campaign to destroy the traditional foundations which human values had been based on for thousands of years. As he grew older, he felt he dared not express his true feelings "for fear of being thought ignorant".

Now, he is fearless: "The temptation to conform can be very powerful. So why haven't I? What is it that produces this overwhelming feeling — for it is only a feeling — in my heart that the whole universe is based on the most profound principles which in themselves represent a giant paradox, but for me inspire a continual sense of awe and reverence? I confess that I don't know what it is, except that it comes from the heart and envelops my whole being. It is an awareness of something beyond the confines of self and it becomes more evident in the presence of great beauty."

Daring stuff. But this is not a God-squad application, or a sign of impending insanity. Instead it is with the aim of those involved in *Temenos* "that civilisation shall not sink". The Prince's architectural institute gave over two rooms to a *Temenos* Academy, whose

noble purpose is to "demonstrate and affirm the transcendent unity of knowledge", or more prosaically, provide evening classes and a crash-course in classical and traditional culture for architecture students. (The relevance of one lecture on the Round Table and the mythological kingdom of King Arthur remains unclear.)

Yet in a country which cannot see beyond its own tax bill, never mind its nose, the princely theories provide necessary relief. Ms Raine is aged 83 and was never keen on royalty until she met Prince Charles, who is 43, whom she refers to as "that wonderful young man". They are both anxious that the eternal and spiritual values of — among others — Plato, Blake, Ruskin and some Eastern philosophers should not be lost.

At first she felt the Prince's anti-materialist stance had been courageous, "since his first statements he's been gradually filling in the details, getting the knowledge he needs". She, too, feels he sees himself as apart from the Establishment, and he refers to his battles against "shadowy experts". "He takes his role very seriously. He researches conscientiously. I suppose he is taking up the traditional role of the king speaking out for the people. Kingship is what you make of it, and he is creating a new image of his role."

Jonathon Porritt, the former director and now adviser to Friends of the Earth, recalls when the environment department invited the Prince to open the North Sea Conference in 1986. Instead of using the bland, prepared welcoming speech, the Prince did his own research, with the help of his own experts, which embarrassed the government into making pledges on pollution control. The Prince's forthcoming speech to the London meeting of the Brundland Commission on April 22 is expected to be another

humdinger. It will cover international issues, particularly population control, the migration

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### TOMORROW

What is bugging Scotland?

## Will your only legacy be upset, confusion and paperwork?

Without a Will, your wishes could count for nothing.

Without a Will, the State could take everything.

Without a Will, your family could lose out.

Without a Will, the tax office could easily benefit.

Without a Will, you can't remember your friends.

Without a Will, you can't remember Christian Aid.

Without a Will, life may be difficult for those closest to you.

Without a Will, life may be impossible for those far away.

If you would like to find out how easy it is to make a Will, send for our free new booklet 'A Will to Care' to Christian Aid, Freepost, London SE1 7YY or phone Glenn McWatt 071-620 4444 ext 2226.

Name Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss

Address

Postcode

Christian Aid

## It's a grate life here if you don't weaken

I think I have found a new career. More than found one: I will have founded it. I am going to set up as the world's first consultant psychotribologist.

If you are a good solid back-page reader, you are already a jump ahead of me, crying "Yes! we need psychotribology now!" Last week this newspaper introduced plain tribology to a wider public on the occasion of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' new War on Wear campaign. The word comes from the Greek "tribein", meaning "to rub", and is the study of things which rub against each other, which grind and squeak at one another's hostile surfaces and throw off shavings of swarf. If we could lubricate them better we would save energy, prevent mechanical breakdown and be £1.5 billion a year richer. So that's tribology: oiling the wheels of industry.

And psychotribology? Well, you know already. Just look around you, at the way your colleague on the left keeps sniffing at his Vick inhaler, and the one on the right is rearranging her drawerful of neat little paisley-patterned boxes marked PAPERCLIPS and PERSONAL. Psychotribology has to come. After all, if £1.5 billion a year is being lost through squeaky

ball-bearings and incompatible cogs, how much more is being wasted on the capacity of human workmates to rub each other up the wrong way, present jagged and damaging surfaces, and generally get up one another's noses?

What is the point of installing an expensive new executive, finely engineered at Inspec and Harvard Business School, if he is going to waste half his energy grinding horribly against the rough surfaces of his ex-works "basically, I'm a barrier-boy" managing director? Why take such trouble polishing job descriptions for a new PA, only to offer her up to a departmental head with a personality like coarse sandpaper and a work pattern designed by a committee of Heath Robinson and Jeffrey Bernard? On the other hand, why waste your time on an anti-harassment code if the tolerances of your employees are all equally crude, and the girls fouler-mouthed cogs than the boys?

Actually, I suspect that a good three-quarters of sexual harassment cases are due to nothing but poor psychotribology. When a doctor accuses a partner of public fondling, or a woman erupts with fury at being consistently called "sweetheart", it is not straightfor-

### WORKING LIFE

Libby Purves offers to oil the wheels of industry



ward sex warfare. There can be antipathies stronger and less rational than any mere passion. Stray phrases betray it: "She had an unfortunate manner", "He had always thought he was too good for the job".

Sex itself is a squeaky wheel: sometimes the very presence of a nubile woman workmate — whose Lycra bodysuit, in fact, a statement about having lost 12lb,

not about sexual rapacity — can deeply infuriate men whose own love-lives are a bit ropy and who come to work partly in order to stop thinking about Lycra and pouting lips. If they harass her, it could be that her very presence is — tribologically speaking — harassing them first. It is no excuse, but it is an explanation.

And remember, just as you can be chivalrous and loving towards a direct rival with whom your gears mesh smoothly, so equally can you fall into a frenzy of hate about a quite innocent colleague. For all kinds of weird reasons: because she has a silly accent, because she always wears four-inch spike heels, because she keeps on agreeing with you and saying "Well, this is it". Or because his shoes squeak on purpose (we are not in rational areas here); because he has a deep, annoying, masculine Freemason sort of laugh that makes you want to assault him with a crowbar; because he has pictures of three grinning kids on his desk and you are having an access battle over yours. Add a habit of tunelessly humming *Abide with Me* under the breath, a hot summer's afternoon and a frustrating meeting and you have all the ingredients for a good Agatha Christie stabbing any day.

Except that violence rarely breaks out. The people concerned merely squeak and grind and grate against one another, sending acid fumes of resentment across the office. Whenever Personnel tries to investigate, everyone says through gritted teeth "No — very good worker — can't complain". It is the hate which dare not speak its name.

And what will the psychotribologist do? Why, lubricate them, of course. First with drink: I will take the grinding gears out separately for lunch and winkle out of them what particular way of laughing Nyah-nyah-nyah on the telephone, what deliberate inability to change the paper in the fax machine has brought on this helpless enmity. The next step is to move into that office myself for a week, and guarantee to be so annoying that everyone will unite in detesting me. I have a particularly good line in singing "Ya picked a fine time to leave me Lucille" under my breath, and my reminiscences of convent school-days have brought deskmates to their knees in days. After I go, nothing will ever seem so bad again. I shall charge a great deal for this service.

TOMORROW  
Mid life Neil Lyndon

to be limited.







# The hit parade of 1892

What excited West End audiences a hundred years ago?

David Robinson on the highlights of a brilliant season

If there was any one "golden age" of live performance in this country, the 1890s might be considered a strong contender. A glance through the theatre and musical programmes of London in 1892 gives the impression that our forebears exactly a hundred years ago were living in a theatrical and musical paradise. Henry Irving ruled at the Lyceum and Marie Lloyd (aged 21) and Dan Leno were the stars of the Drury Lane pantomime. Mr and Mrs Beerbohm Tree played Hamlet and Ophelia, while Sarah Bernhardt gave her most brilliant London season. The year 1892 was also to see the play-writing debuts of Oscar Wilde, Bernard Shaw, J.M. Barrie and Henry James.

There were 30 working theatres in the West End, and as many music-halls, north and south of the river. Each month saw an average of 30 new dramatic productions. Every regional town had at least one legitimate theatre. Amateur drama groups proliferated. The talent that must today be dispersed between theatre, film, television and radio was then all dedicated to live performance.

At the St James Hall, the concerts conducted by the great German maestro Hans Richter introduced London to exciting new music from Germany, Russia and Bohemia. Eugene Onegin and Cavalleria Rusticana had their British premieres. Covent Garden was still exploring new (for London) regions of the Wagner repertory — and in June 1892 a sensational young Austrian conductor made a whirlwind debut in the house. His name was Gustav Mahler.

In fact, distance and nostalgia lend false enchantment. The reality was often less glamorous than appears from the records of the times. In January 1892 the country was in the grip of a killer influenza epidemic the casts of the London theatres were decimated.

Even for those who were well enough, going to the theatre was



Above: Marie Lloyd, the 21-year-old sensation of 1892

made hazardous by the dense pea-soup fogs that covered London. There were reports of people choked to death by the fumes in the street. The fog even entered the chilly theatres (few yet boasted central heating). Clement Scott, the magisterial critic of *The Telegraph*, remembered how, on these foggy first nights, "the bewildered dramatic critics knotted themselves together en queue and were guided by a desperate and hardy pioneer to the offices in Fleet Street." The journey must have been all the more hazardous, since the London critics were divided by murderous factionalism.

The issue of the conflict was "Ibsenism" and the New Drama. The conservatives defended melodrama, the well-made play and "idealism" against the pessimistic realism of the Norwegian playwright. The British champion of Ibsen was William Archer, critic of *The World*. The battle had raged unabated since Archer's translation of *A Doll's House* was produced at the Novelty Theatre in 1889. Archer's main ally was the Dutch-born critic J.T. Grein, who in 1891 established the Independent Theatre, to produce works by new dramatists such as Ibsen, Zola and Brandes. Leading the anti-Ibsen faction was Clement Scott.

While the New Critics approved Oscar Wilde's first play, Clement Scott did not. It is hard to know if he was more outraged by *Lady Windermere's Fan* or by the playwright's behaviour at the first night: "Undeterred by manager, unchecked by public voice, unreprimanded by men, and tacitly en-



couraged by women, an author lounge before the footlights, without any becoming deference of attitude, takes no trouble to fling aside his half-smoked cigarette, and proceeds to compliment the audience on its good sense in liking what he himself has condescended to admire." Yet, Scott feared, "society at large will rush to see his play". Society rushed; and most critics praised.

Scott felt very differently about another new playwright, J.M. Barrie, who "does not require

any imperfections of self-advertisement. Mr Barrie will win his way to fame without insolent letters in the newspapers." In fact Barrie's 1892 play, *What No One Could Ever Believe*, was a flop. No doubt Scott had a soft spot for Barrie as the anonymous author of an anti-Ibsen skit of the day, *A Ghost, a Spirited Sketch Not by Ibsen*.

Shaw explained his first excursion into play-writing in the year of 1892: "I turned my hand to play-writing when a great deal of talk about the New Drama, followed by the actual establishment of a new

theatre (the Independent) threatened to end in the humiliating discovery that the New Drama, in England at all events, was a figment of the revolutionary imagination. This was not to be endured. I had rashly taken up the case, and rather than let it collapse, I manufactured the evidence." That evidence was *Widowers' Houses*, which came out in December, 1892, to fan the flames of the critical dispute.

Shaw, Wilde and Ibsen are remembered, while the well-made farces and melodramas of 1892, and Irving's over-upholstered Hen-

ry VIII are long forgotten. Yet the most enduring successes of the season were slight things that had nothing to do with the dramatic wars. One was the saucy song "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay", introduced by Lottie Collins into the Gaiety burlesque *Cinder-Ellen*. Even Clement Scott loved this: "It is a triumph in the art of crescendo. Very gently and gradually the song rises, swells, and surges into its ultimate madness."

The other was an entertainment devised by the actor Brandon Thomas, already the author of half a dozen mediocre plays. *Charles's Aunt*, starring J.S. Penley, opened

inconspicuously at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds on February 29. In the months that it trundled round the provinces its reputation spread. The eventual promise of a London opening evoked some apprehension: "Mr Penley, we are told, appears as an old lady. The idea is certainly humorous, though a man in female attire is apt to be repulsive." But when *Charles's Aunt* arrived in London in December, all fears were proved groundless. Its 1,466 consecutive performances set a record that was not to be broken for 22 years; and *Charles's Aunt* is still revived today, a century on.



Above: Mr and Mrs Beerbohm Tree in *Hamlet*



Left: The cover of the song-sheet for the hit number of 1892, "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay", with a glowing endorsement taken from *The Times*. Above: Henry Irving and Ellen Terry as Henry and Catherine in *Henry VIII* at the Lyceum

## THEATRE

### Troubled in mind and body



Bill Marsh and Laurissa Kalinowsky

Toronto, Mississippi  
Finborough  
Earls Court

JOAN MACLEOD's Canadian play takes a hard look at a family with a retarded daughter, a girl of 18 with a mental age of a five-year-old. Not that the family unit is entirely conventional to begin with. Maddie (Jane Morant) is bringing up Jhana single-handed, separated from her husband, an Elvis Presley impersonator called King. Maddie's lodger, Bill, is a young academic and poet, sexually inept, who provides loving companionship for the girl while pining for her mother. The absent King, in his Presley persona, pro-

vides brief musical and philosophical comment to an unseen audience before returning home for a disastrous visit.

The play is at its most powerful when attention centres on Jhana and the terrible tensions between a child mind and an adult body. Laurissa Kalinowsky draws a marvellous portrait of unchannelled physical energy and bewildered intellectual groping. She is harrowing in depicting a burgeoning, half-conscious sexuality combined with the inability to communicate or hold down the simplest therapeutic job. Her final triumph in telephoning an emergency number and articulating a cry for help not for herself but for hurt people in her home has a nice irony.

Despite amusing side swipes at Canadian academe, the characterisation can verge on the token, though Scott Gilmore as the love-sick boarder exploits the play's most sympathetic role. Occasionally perfunctory plotting is underlined by the puzzle of King's preoccupation with Elvis. At the final preview of Charles Siegel's production Bill Marsh's performance needed tighter focus: more menace, perhaps, a more obsessive quality to emphasise the parallel between the two men's attempt to construct an emotional identity by breathing life into the bones of the dead while those living around them are blissfully, tragically unaware.

MARTIN HOYLE

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Critics most cantankerous

Those viewers who did not read English at Cambridge in the 1950s or 1960s, or keep copies of the literary magazine *Scrutiny* on their shelves, must have been surprised by Screen Two last night. Barely a month after the showing of Simon Gray's *The Common Pursuit*, which shared its title with one of F.R. Leavis's books and then there was Leavis the lively young crusader, bestriding the screen in flashback. The one was seen warily befriending an insecure Scots student, the other arguing with his conservative mentor, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, about that alarming new talent, T.S. Eliot. In each case an ageing Queneau exuded scorn. Leo McKern's kindly "Q" she remembered as "a relic when he was still alive". Alan Cumming's wail-like Tulloch she inexplicably dismissed as "pure poison".

Jack Gold's production was set in 1969 and showed the Leavis that Simon Gray, another former pupil, remembered in his book *An Unnatu-*

*ral Pursuit*. F.R. would sit in a wry trance while his wife Queneau gleefully execrated colleagues. He was, wrote Gray, "bullied by his wife's sense of grievance (amounting almost to paranoia) into an aggression foreign to his nature".

That was part of Williams's picture. First there was Leavis the disappointed old critic, and then there was Leavis the lively young crusader, bestriding the screen in flashback. The one was seen warily befriending an insecure Scots student, the other arguing with his conservative mentor, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, about that alarming new talent, T.S. Eliot. In each case an ageing Queneau exuded scorn. Leo McKern's kindly "Q" she remembered as "a relic when he was still alive". Alan Cumming's wail-like Tulloch she inexplicably dismissed as "pure poison".

Sara Kestelman was a won-

dertfully withering Queneau. Eyes glittering, face bunched, tongue balefully spitting judgements she admitted were personal in origin ("the most serious quarrel you can have is a quarrel about poetry"), she held Ian Holm's stricken Leavis in thrall, like a snake with a vole half-resigned to its death. For me that was the play's centre but for Williams it was not altogether so. His Leavis was also under attack from an opposite fanatic: a far-left student bludgeoning poor Tulloch with his view that Eng Lit was a pointless distraction from the class struggle.

The real Leavis was indeed indifferent to politics. Literature was his morality, his religion, his very life. One of the play's troubles was that it did not positively define his criteria of excellence. Another was the implausibility of a Tulloch plot eccentrically ending with the Scot scaling a church tower and seeing how

Lilliputian both Cambridge and Leavis were. Another was that Williams failed to put any of the case for Queneau, an able critic himself. Did he know she was utterly rejected by the Orthodox Jewish family she adored after marrying the agnostic Leavis? The play must have left many viewers puzzled. Why so much fuss about an academic who these days cuts an even dimmer figure in the public mind than Foucault or Derrida? Yet it takes no great critical knowledge to be touched by the grim pathos of Leavis the man. Gray quoted a description of his last illness: "He was sunk in unapproachable and terrifying gloom. All he said was, 'I'm not feeling chirpy'. His death was a relief." Williams and Holm showed us some of the reasons why.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## DANCE

### New partners in betrayal

The Judas Tree  
Covent Garden

Viviana Durante gives the girl, but she is equally provocative and supple, and perhaps more pitiable, with her thin arms and legs giving the look of a crippled bird.

The two new leading men arguably made their roles

dearer than they were before. Zoltan Solymosi does his Bolshoi steps almost as well as Mukhamedov; he seemed more lascivious, more relaxed in his acting, a plausible young gangster where the other suggested a serious man going against his nature. Similarly, William Trevitt, who takes over as the wronged friend, has the strength of

character to play it very gently but still dominate.

Trevitt, an excellent young dancer, was in all three ballets and looked as fresh finishing Balanchine's *Symphony in C* as when he started the evening in the same choreographer's energetic and intriguing *Sravin's Violin Concerto*. In this latter he partnered Darcy Russell handsomely, while Sylvie Guillem and Solymosi brought sparkling zest to the other leads. But in the *Bizet Symphony*, many of the dancers show more exuberance than exactness. The Royal Ballet has much young talent, but some of it needs to be more sharply focused.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## ARTS BRIEF

### Angel in town

A LONDON date has been announced for *The Blue Angel*, Pam Gems's musical-play adaptation of the Heinrich Mann novel, which was much admired for its authentic evocation of Weimar Republic decadence when premiered by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford last summer. Trevor Nunn's production will open at the Globe Theatre on May 20, following previews from May 8.

### Hoax goes on

THOSE Hitler diaries won't go away. The 1983 hoax has already been the subject of a British television satire, *Selling Hitler*. Now it provides the story for the current runaway success of German cinema: Helmut Dietl's film *Schtonk*. The title is a word made up by Charlie Chaplin for the glibberish speeches in his 1940 satire on Hitler, *The Great Dictator*.

### In the pink

ART on the Underground, the series of posters commissioned by London Underground to brighten the journeys of the capital's much abused commuters, will feature its first non-British artist in May. He

is the Dutch painter Lucas Kuyt, who has provided a striking, predominantly pink abstract of Woodson Hill Woods, Amersham, to mark the centenary of the Metropolitan Line to Amersham. Kuyt is no stranger to the British landscape: he spends part of each year sketching on a converted Bailey bridge amid the Norfolk marshes.

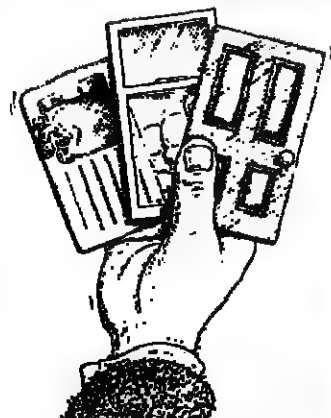
### Doomed to win

WITH Sid Vicious and Joe Orton tucked under his belt, actor Gary Oldman will notch up another wayward, doomed talent this summer when he tackles the role of the painter Modigliani in a screen biography. Phil Joanou, who worked with Oldman on *State of Grace*, will direct.

### Last chance...

TOLSTOY'S *Anna Karenina* contains dozens of characters and scenes set on railway trains, at racetracks, in ballrooms and deep in the peasant heart of Russia. Yet Nancy Meckler's production succeeds, with a cast of eight, in creating a thrilling impression of the desperate passion that takes Anna to her doom under the engine wheels. Shared Experience's inventive physical style brings the essence of scene after scene to life on an almost bare stage. Until Saturday at the Tricycle, Kilburn (071-328 1000).

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Still learning the art of betting, John Diamond seeks out a gambling expert to explain the British passion for throwing away money

## When your heart goes all a-flutter

By no possible stretch of the imagination is this the members enclosure at Cheltenham. There is no A.J. Kincaid (as in "The Intrepid" A.J. Kincaid) or J.P. MacManus (as in "The Legend") (as in "The Legend") J.P. MacManus) or any of the other reckless men in their tweeds and cords and thick-soled brogues pocketing wads of twenties following a good thing in the fifth. There is no seedy gentleman making an unlicensed and illegal book for those whose pleasure it is to place five-figure sums at longish odds. There is no smell of horseflesh or human sweat or champagne or cut grass or any of the other scents that Jamie Reid tells me brings to life racing action a sense of the erotic.

In fact, as far as I can tell, this is as near to unexciting as Mr Reid can imagine any racing experience being. We are in a basement bookies in Soho full of Italian waiters crumpling their failed betting slips in their fists and spitting "Che stronzi!" at the television screen as their horse limps home last, and jabbering Chinese cooks divining the winner in the next race at Brighton from its jockey's running number rather than the horse's form.

I have dragged Mr Reid, the author of a new book on the British love affair with the turf, into Ladbrokes to show me how to make a bet — or, more accurately, how to make a winning bet. He should be a useful tutor: aged 37, Oxford-educated (rare, despite Mr Reid's apparent belief that the on-course betting industry is almost entirely staffed by the sons of ministers and former public schoolboys), sometime racing correspondent of a heavyweight Sunday newspaper and Private Eye's "Major Bonkers", Mr Reid has been laying bets since his grandmother showed him how to dial her bookie when he was seven.

Even so, Mr Reid is dubious. Because we are in a bookies and not at the track, asking for advice is rather like my giving Richard Rogers a box of Lego and asking him to show me how to build a Pompidou Centre. Mr Reid grimaces, sucks his bearded lower lip and looks around the television monitors high on the walls of the little room. "I suppose we could try Brighton," he says. "It's a cheerful enough little course, but..." He looks down the list for the Roodean Handicap as shown in the *Sporting Life* which sits under his perspic cover by the counter. Mr Reid is obviously not comfortable with the race. The problem, it seems, is not

just that a bookies shop does not have the erotic excitement of a race track, but that you can't really get what Mr Reid keeps calling a "value" bet. "This is real blind betting, of course. It's just for fun. Right? This looks like the nearest you'll get to a value bet." He puts a tenner on Truthful Image at 2-1. I put twenty on Appealing Times. Between us we lose £30.

I'd always vaguely assumed that the odds shown on the TV monitors at a bookies were a reasonable reflection of a horse's chances of winning and that if a horse was marked up at 10-1 it meant that the bookie believed that the statistical probability was that if the same race was run ten times

### HEAVY BETTING

The races where most money was staked in 1991 were:

1. Grand National Handicap Chase — Aintree
2. Derby Stakes — Epsom
3. Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase — Cheltenham
4. Eclipse Stakes — Sandown
5. 2,000 Guineas Stakes — Newmarket
6. King George VI Chase — Kempton
7. Champion Hurdle — Cheltenham
8. Welsh National Handicap Chase — Chepstow
9. Oaks Stakes — Epsom
10. Triumph Hurdle — Cheltenham

Source: Ladbrokes

the horse would win once. Equally, I'd always assumed that the punter's eternal incantation "only the bookie always wins" was based on the belief that the men at Ladbrokes, William Hill and Corals — the big three bookmakers — could reckon the chances of a horse winning a race better than the average punter. Not so.

In fact, as Mr Reid explains it, the odds are a direct reflection of the amount bet on each horse and are arranged by the bookies so that however much they have to pay out to those who have backed the winner, they will always take more from those who have picked losers. Mathematically it is a fairly easy equation to prove. In the Roodean Handicap there were five runners; their prices when we bet were 7-4 and 2.3.6 and 8-1. A quick calculation (dividing the right-hand figure in any given odds by the two figures added together) shows that a horse running at 7-4 (4x100/(7+4)) has been deemed to have a 36.4 per cent chance of winning the race. Do the same calculation

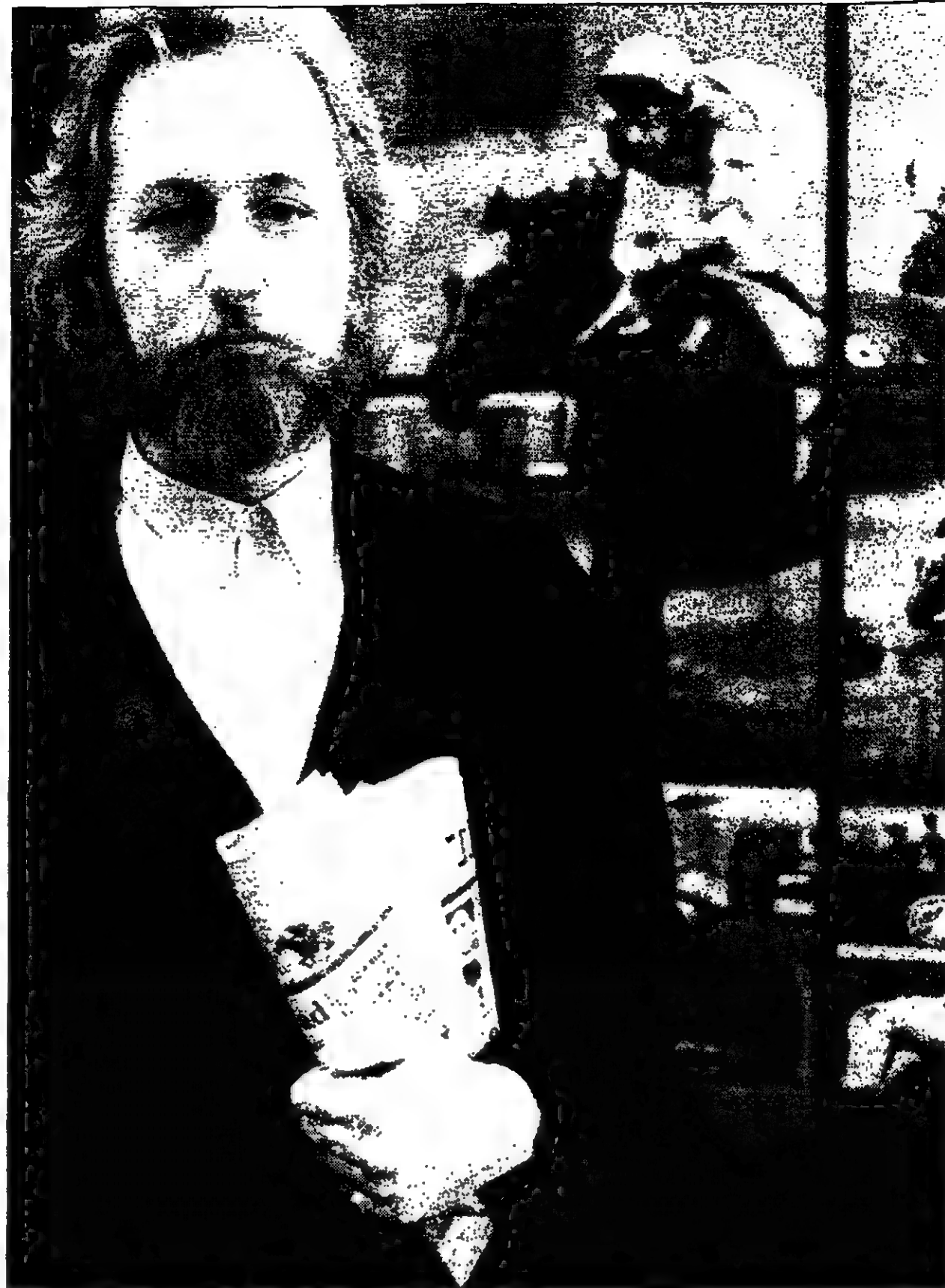
for each horse and the combined odds, in a fair — or "round" — book, should add up to 100 per cent. The sum of odds for the five-horse race at Brighton came to 120 per cent: the extra 20 per cent is the bookies' margin.

A 20 per cent margin on sales is rather less than that charged by other leisure industry outlets (as the bookies now style themselves) but that is not Mr Reid's real worry. "About 95 per cent of all betting is done in betting shops and really those shops have pulled off something of an entrepreneurial coup. They've turned what was a rather spivvy business in 1961, when Rab Butler legalised betting shops, into a legitimate sector of the leisure industry. I mean the average bookies is a bit like Clockwork Orange on a bad day with all this red plastic decor, and hard sell and punters screaming at the screens, but the place still has an attraction about it. And something like £10 million is bet every day in places like these."

That £10 million should determine the odds, even when the book is over-rounded to 120 per cent or even more. But the odds listed by the big three are not worked out from the returns from the shops but of those bets taken at the track where the remaining 5 per cent of punters are gambling. The opening odds, given at the track, are in fact based on the chances of each horse winning; by the time the starting price (SP) odds appear five or ten minutes later, the numbers have been fine-tuned by the money taken.

"Although there can be substantial numbers of punters at the really big meetings, there are perhaps 1,000 or less at the small tracks for the unimportant races," says Mr Reid. Among those few, small-time punters, though, will be representatives from the big three bookmakers, betting with the on-track, one-man bookies. They are in contact with head office, putting a couple of hundred on a horse here, a couple of hundred there. It's enough to influence the odds but a tiny proportion of the money the betting shops will take on the race.

If most of the gamblers around us are aware that they are getting less than good value for their bets they do not show it, but then I suspect that these low-grade punters don't expect fairness to have anything to do with gambling, any more than New Yorkers handing their money over to numbers racketeers expect a fair deal from the mafia. Mr Reid and his fellow full-timers have brought a certain science



Jamie Reid outside Ladbrokes in Soho: "None of the people in here... will finish up slashing their wrists"

to their obsession: the men in Ladbrokes are dealing in no more than luck.

Massaged odds aside, there is the question of Satellite Information Services (SIS), the company that broadcasts the odds and the races to the TV monitors in the betting shops. "In the old days, before the government changed the puritanical rules that banned lavatories and comfortable chairs and hot drinks and TV sets from betting shops, the odds came over on a loudspeaker from Exel, which was a totally independent organisation," Mr Reid says.

SIS, on the other hand, is part-owned by the big three, and there are regular rumblings among the heavyweight punters that the occasional time difference between the odds being made at the course and them getting back to the betting shops is less than

accidental and is there to give the big three's on-course representatives time to lay their bets and influence the odds.

As a punter himself, though, Mr Reid's main complaint is that the modern bookies shops are gutless: they simply won't take the big bets that are the mark of the betting hero. "You see the ante-post odds advertised by the big three in the trade press in the morning and one of them looks good value. So you phone them up and say 'I'll take £5,000 at 12-1, and they say, 'Sorry, but all the twelves have gone', as if the bet was a marketable commodity which they'd sold out of."

This business of betting vast sums of money on individual horses has created the mythology of punting which Mr Reid finds so exciting. The stories in

his book are of on-track bookies, such as the original William Hill himself, who would think nothing of giving odds on £50,000 bets, and of professional punters who would think nothing of losing that amount. And it seems to me that every labourer taking the afternoon off to watch his ten bob yankee collapse in the local Corals imagines that he is part of that same mythology.

We need that excitement, the three minutes of pumping adrenaline, the beating heart," Mr Reid says. The man at the Tote window is, by some atavistic extension, pitting his wits against those of the horse. I suggest to Mr Reid that an animal witless enough to take a chance over the crippling Chair at Aintree next weekend makes a pretty poor adversary, wit-wise. "Well there is that point of view, but I see it as pitting wits against the

bookmaker rather than the horse.

"Most of the people in here," Mr Reid says looking round the seething shop, "are just having fun. Britons enjoy betting. They are in love with betting. But none of the people in here are risking their homes, or will finish up the afternoon slashing their wrists." None the less, he insists that gambling is most fun when it really is risky. "Yes, I have bet more than I can afford," admits Mr Reid, who refuses to divulge how much his gambling costs him each year, "and I have had that feeling of blind panic when a horse on which I've bet a large amount loses."

Like all of the working gamblers I've ever met ("An investor rather than a punter, if you like, although I've always disparaged that term when others use it"), Mr Reid

describes losing money with as much, if not more, relish than he describes winning it. He is no fan of the Freudian theory that gamblers are only happy when they are losing, but his description of the gambler's rush in his book — "an intense and pervasive combination of greed, bravura, excitement and fear" — is the sort of thing that gives psychologists a field-day. Punters may not enjoy losing, but there is always that feeling as the punter watches the fifth horse of his accumulator go down, that losing is the grown-up, manly thing to do.

Only when Jamie Reid writes a book which tells heroic tales of intrepid men gambling their all, winning, and retiring on the proceeds, will I be entirely convinced by the magnificence of his obsession.

● A Licence to Print Money by Jamie Reid is published by Macmillan (£17.50) on April 10.

## 'He is adept at targeting his audiences'

Continued from page 1

of refugees, environmental controls and the duty of the northern countries to finance sustainable development in the south.

Such speeches take time to write, and the Prince draws on a varied pool of advisers, depending on the expertise he needs. On environmental issues, Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince's private secretary, is acknowledged by Mr Porritt as occasionally being better read than himself. "The Prince is adept at targeting his material according to different audiences," Mr Porritt says. "He is interested in the Jungian theory that the collective unconsciousness is what shapes society, but he will tone down the more spiritual aspect and stick to hard facts if that's what's required for a speech. He is circumspect, too, about who he endorses."

The Prince steers clear of the wackier elements of the Green movement. Although he has met Richard Lovelock, the creator of the Gaia theory of the earth as a living organism, he does not consult him.

is a surprisingly good chair," Lord Young, the chairman of Cable and Wireless and a regular luncher at Kensington Palace, agrees. For instance, the Prince brought together more than 100 international businessmen to talk about the environment at a conference in North Carolina. "Probably they just wanted to be photographed with him, but the results were good. He acts as a sort of corporate conscience. People going to private dinner parties at his London home or Highgrove end the evening by volunteering for all sorts of things they never intended. He's a good nagger," he says. "He is living proof there is no such thing as a free lunch."

Such activities get results, be it the decommissioning of royally disapproved architectural plans for the National Gallery or Paternoster Square, or the funding of The Prince's Trust or repairs to Salisbury cathedral spire. He has a prophetic knack of hitting on subjects which are about to become populist, like green issues and holistic medicine.

The insatiable desire to be a catalyst for change results in extraordinary plans, such as



Behind the scenes: some of Prince Charles's best work is done away from the publicity his speeches attract

away during the recession. Leon Krier, the anti-modernist architect who designed Poundbury, says the Prince is

bureaucracy around him, and if he wants to change direction, it is like turning a huge ship.

"It may be slow," Mr Krier says, "but he has turned the tide in architecture, created a debate where there were just

by protocol. It is always 'Sir'. The position weighs heavily on Prince Charles. Indeed, his desire to change the state of

Prince Charles's reign will be quite different from his mother's, if his present operation is anything to go by. No longer does he accept a diary filled in by unthinking Army gents, or give speeches written by civil servants from government departments. Instead, there are vast brainstorming sessions with experts in each field, and his private office will prepare research and the first draft, but the final version bears the royal stamp.

His closest adviser is Commander Aylard, in overall charge of the Prince's affairs, who takes a particular interest in conservation and the environment. The deputy private secretary is Peter Westmacott, dealing with education, architecture and European tours. The two assistant private secretaries are Hugh Merrill, who deals with Business in the Community and The Prince's Trust, and most recently Belinda Harley, a former PR, whose portfolio includes the arts, health and heritage.

Their role in relation to Prince Charles is rather like senior civil servants to a government minister. They go on tour, sift the 2,000 or so letters a week, field invitations and requests for patronage, and research or find suitable experts to consult in their areas. At the end of each day, their labours result in a vast box of paperwork, which the Prince

water". If the response is good, and the Prince feels he has struck a chord, the action hops up. Occasionally, interest is such that the Prince thinks it worthwhile to put across his views in a film, the last two being *The Earth in Balance* and *A Vision of Britain*. Coming up next year is his book on organic farming and gardening on the Highgrove estate.

Since the early 1980s, when the Prince launched his first assaults on the architectural and medical professions, he has grown in confidence and stature. The initial signs that the variety of interests were symptomatic of a want of concentration seem to have faded. He knows his stuff, or at least, he knows his pet experts. The apprentice king, with time to educate himself, has developed a consistent line of thought.

Of course, some of his subjects are convinced Prince Charles's theories are outlandish, if not barking mad. The spiritual and philosophical aspect of his crusade is considered either embarrassing, or half-baked in some parts of the realm, and debates are unfairly weighted in his direction, for no ordinary citizen would gain such a hearing. He is acceptable when fenced in by constitutional requirements of neutrality, but the day he slips into politics the response may be less benign.

Yet even the staunchest dis-

An fo



Stuck in an ugly office?  
Design kits offer a way  
to soothing interiors



Setting patterns: Joanna Macrae

## Striking mix and match

Companies will soon have no excuse for choosing boring beige or safe grey to improve their corporate image — they will be able to call on an interior designer-in-a-box. The box of tricks which creates instant off-the-peg schemes is the invention of Joanna Macrae, a Perthshire interior designer, who has put together 230 carpets, wall coverings, upholstery and curtain fabrics which all co-ordinate throughout any of six colourways. It is, she claims, almost impossible to mismatch any of the parts.

The six colour brackets — yellow, blue, grey, terracotta, heathery pink, green-turquoise and creamy-beige — each have a selection of patterns and textures which cross-reference to the various colour boards. All the designs are textured or patterned, avoiding the severe blocks of solid brown upholstery which blight so many offices.

For a £60 fee, businesses can acquire the half-box-sized kit containing samples of all the products, as well as advice on how to put a decorative scheme together. Mixing, which could produce up to 40,000 variations on a theme, Ms Macrae says, will limit the chances of companies hitting on the same corporate image. "What it amounts to is a tapestry effect, where combinations produce different colour emphases," she says.

Ms Macrae believes more thought should be given to matching the use of colour to the type of work being done in a room. "Vibrant colours make workers tired and strident contrasts can contribute to tension," she says. "Subtle patterns, which provide a soothing backdrop, can help people feel that their office is generally a pleasant place in which to spend a day."

The "Case for Design" is not only intended for the high-street solicitor looking for a foolproof design package, but for other professional decorators and for architects. Ms Macrae's company, Northwood Designs, has been specialising in corporate and hotel contracts for the past ten years. "I became more and more frustrated that I had to go outside Britain to get the exciting and interesting fabrics I wanted," she says. "We seemed to be stuck on hard colours in this country, emerald green and plum red, rather than the soft, subtle tones and textures which work so much better."

"There is, in some employers' minds, a feeling that since coffee will inevitably be spilled, it is as well to make the decor match," Ms Macrae says. "I find that if you give people a pleasant atmosphere to work in, they tend to be more careful."

JOAN SIMPSON

# Shoes soar to new heights

The Seventies revival has brought in its wake what many women most dreaded. But the platform shoe is taking off, reports Brenda Polan

Fashion may be cyclical but there are certain aberrations which would seem certain never to be recycled. The platform sole is one such. After all, the world is full of women with scarred knees and embarrassed memories of being betrayed by their footwear.

However, unlikely as some may find it, a major wedge revival is under way. The final official sanction has been bestowed by Karl Lagerfeld, whose autumn ready-to-wear collection shown in Paris last week features deep-soled leather boots. They roused nostalgic shudders in some of those who were hip in the early Seventies — but not in all of them. In the front row both the editor and deputy editor of *Vogue* were wearing platform soles by Maud Frizon and Stephane Kelian respectively.

It is several years since Vivienne Westwood reintroduced platforms to a seemingly unresponsive world, and only the young British designers most heavily under her influence followed in her testering footsteps. High-street shops such as Sacha and Derber started selling platforms a year or so ago. Now the upper end of the market is tentatively stacking its soles, too.

"There is," says Paul Lennard, designer for Derber and Sacha, "going to be a platform explosion this summer, and, although we were using a wonderfully light synthetic material for last winter's platforms, for summer we are going back to using wood and cork, as they did in the 1940s."

He says, however, that the shoes will better engineered this time. "In the Seventies many shoemakers simply stuck another sole on to the bottom of a conventional shoe. The balance was wrong — that's why women toppled. This time technological advances have enabled us to get the balance right."

Early 1970s women clambered on to platform soles as part of a droopy mid-skirted 1940s revival and discovered the joy of getting above arm-pit-level in a crowded room. She wore her clumpy ankle-wrenchers with everything, especially her pavement-grazing loon pants and trailing ethnic skirts. When fashion moved on, bereft wedge-wearers wandered unrecognised among acquaintances who had never before seen

them from above. Some of them, like The Queen, The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, never did quite manage to give them up.

Platforms in general and wedges in particular are a very strange phenomenon when one reflects that a dainty foot is one of the ideals of feminine beauty constant through most cultures. The secret of their allure is in the extra height they impart. Height, in both men and

women, is attractive. Forget the ludicrous effect of the giant Minnie Mouse feet (cute, says M Lennard reprovingly; consider instead the illusion of six extra inches of leg. Moreover, tall people are not overlooked; they have presence. Looking down on the rest of the species

— or at least being able to look it in the eye — makes men and women feel in control.

Another revival of wedges was inevitable once fashion designers began playing with the shapes of the 1970s. "The timing was right, too," says Shelly Robbins of Shelly's Shoes which produces designs by Helen Storey and Ghost as well as Katharine Hammett, Joe Casey-Hayford, John Richmond and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

"People are bored with flat shoes. Silhouettes are difficult to wear and, for young women, associated with tartiness. Wedges are a natural progression for people who like wearing Dr Martens and large trainers."

As with so many of fashion's excesses, this one had practical origins. The first platform soles were tie-on affairs designed to keep ill-shod feet out of the mud. The affluent may have adopted them for practical purposes, but redesigned and exaggerated them for reasons of vanity. In 16th-century Venice, where flooded streets were the excuse, patens reached such heights (as much as 18 inches) that ladies of fashion could not stagger out of doors without a dwarfed lackey at each elbow.

The second world war revival of platforms owed everything to a shortage of leather, metal and rubber. Shoemak-

ers were forced to use wood and cork to keep their customers' feet dry and, once again, women loved the extra inches. The great shoemaker of this period (perhaps the greatest ever) was Salvatore Ferragamo who, working in Hollywood in the 1920s, had invented platform shoes to make diminutive stars such as Theda Bara look more imposing. Back in Italy, when wartime and post-war shortages forced designers to improvise, he used raffia, straw, hemp, cork and wood to create towering structures of great ingenuity and beauty.

Where Signor Ferragamo's platform shoes differed from those of his imitators was in their perfect balance and comfort. He had studied the anatomy of the foot and comfort was always his first priority. In responding to exigency, however, Signor Ferragamo created not just a practical solution but a sexy one as well. Fashion historian Colin McDowell, author of *Shoes: Fashion and Fantasy* (Thames & Hudson) speculates that there is an erotic charge to the idea of a fragile female foot in a far from fragile shoe.

There has always been an erotic charge to anything which encumbers women and makes them more vulnerable and less agile. But this is clearly not what women sought in Dr Martens and trainers. They loved them for their comfort and tough-guy image. But the boredom threshold of the fashionable is low and women have always been prepared to suffer in the cause of fashion. "One of the best sellers this summer," says M Lennard, "is the wooden clog with a leather upper riveted on. Customers are going for the crudest, most extreme styles."

At Ferragamo, where Salvatore's daughter, Marchesa Fiamma di San Giuliano Ferragamo, is head of design, this spring's designs include a few minimal one-inch platforms. "It is clearly," she says, "part of the Seventies look. Women like it because it makes them look taller and it makes their legs and ankles look slimmer. But I do know that many men do not like it on women."

The man with the long view, Colin McDowell, predicts a brief tinter for the 1990s platform. "Women may be prepared to put up with some discomfort for the sake of fashion. But not for long. They have learned to value comfort and agility too much."



High style, from left: WEDGE MULE Stephane Kelian, 1992 PLATFORM SANDAL Salvatore Ferragamo, 1938-39 PLATFORM LOAFER Espace, 1992



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

THE QUEEN MOTHER

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

HRH PRINCESS MARGARET

CHANEL

Authentic period interiors are taking starring roles in a generation of films and television series

## And now, an Oscar for the wallpaper

The television series *The Camille Lawn* turned a house on a Cornwall cliff into a star. Now Merchant Ivory's film adaptation of E M Forster's novel *Howard's End* gives a wisteria-covered cottage near Henley in Oxfordshire a starring role.

Ismail Merchant, the producer of *Howard's End*, agrees that the presentation of a special house is emblematic of Merchant Ivory films. More essentially, propriety and location are fundamental to the plot of *Howard's End*. *Howard's End* was published in 1910 and tells the story of two families — the emotional, cultural Schlegels and the unimaginative, conventional Wilcoxes. The drama is played out against the backdrop of the middle classes' fashionable approach to home decoration.

The meticulous attention to period detail and pictorial lushness of previous Merchant Ivory productions have evoked the comment from the director Alan Parker that these are "Laura Ashley films". This time the scene is set — literally — by the wallpaper and fabric company Sanderson.

The painstaking research required to create authentic Edwardian interiors fell to Luciana Arrighi, a production designer who trained at the BBC and has designed sets and costumes for opera, theatre and films in England, Europe and Australia.

Her work on other period pieces, including *The Return of the Soldier* and *My Brilliant Career*, meant she was already well versed in Edwardiana. For *Howard's End*, Ms Arrighi drew on

Sanderson's huge design archive containing more than 20,000 wallpaper and fabric samples, pattern books, design reference books, photographs and original artwork.

All of the wallcovering and fabric designs shown in the film are reproductions of historical patterns sourced at Sanderson. For example, Aunt Juley's house filmed at Blackpool Sands in Devon is furnished with Cassandra, a Sanderson design featuring exotic flowers and trailing stems.

Ageing fabric with tea, distressing wallpaper with

distemper, creating damp stains with shellac, bleaching upholstery and spraying painted walls are among Ms Arrighi's tricks of the trade.

Wickham Place, the Schlegel's London home (filmed in Victoria Square, SW1) with its elaborate drapery and lace curtains, offers views of the Wilcox's mansion block flat in which a cluttered drawing room harks back to the over-ornamentation of Victorian time.

Looking at paintings of the period proved a great inspiration for Ms Arrighi. "In the Schlegel London house I

wanted Whistler-like colours, so the hallway panelling is painted light blue to indicate how avant-garde the Schlegel sisters were. In contrast to the cool greys and blues of the Schlegel house we had the opulent rich burgundies and reds for the Wilcox London home."

"Because I work with teams of painters, it was important to colour swatch the whole film to retain precise control of the look of each interior."

At Howard's End, she wanted the country, nature and the garden to come into the house. So she used

Ornamental Vine wallpaper, inspired by a block-printed border originally manufactured by Sanderson in 1912, and Oakwood Border, a wallpaper border based on an archive document from the 1860s.

Further historical designs used in the house include Acorn Willow and Vine printed fabrics adapted from wallpaper designs by William Morris from the 1870s.

Period colour schemes such as terracotta or sage and the Edwardian vogue for pretty floral fabrics and rose, trellis or striped wallpaper are

recreated at Howard's End along with the use of wide cut-out borders, fashionable at the time.

According to Sanderson's archivist, Lesley Hoskins, "Furnishing with antiques was too expensive for most middle-class Edwardians so matching suites of reproduction furniture were common. Rooms were decorated in different historical styles depending on their function. The most famous design for the drawing room was an elegant 18th-century look."

Those who had any artistic, cultural or intellectual aspirations furnished their homes in the Arts and Crafts style," she says. "This originated in the 1860s in reaction to machine-made and naturalistic ornamentation of the mid-19th century. Arts and Crafts designers looked back to medieval crafts processes and followed the principles of honesty in craftsmanship, truth to materials and the use of conventionalised patterns."

How much of the interior decoration in *Howard's End* is Luciana Arrighi's vision of Edwardian England and how much Forster's? "The book gave me enormous guidelines," says Ms Arrighi. "I have translated the descriptions visually. When working on *Howard's End* I always went back to the book to get the right spirit."

NICOLE SWENGLEY

• Designs On Film, an exhibition of sketches, photographs and tableaux from *Howard's End* runs from April 4-May 9 at Sanderson, 52 Berners Street, London W1. *Howard's End*, directed by James Ivory and produced by Ismail Merchant is released on May 1.

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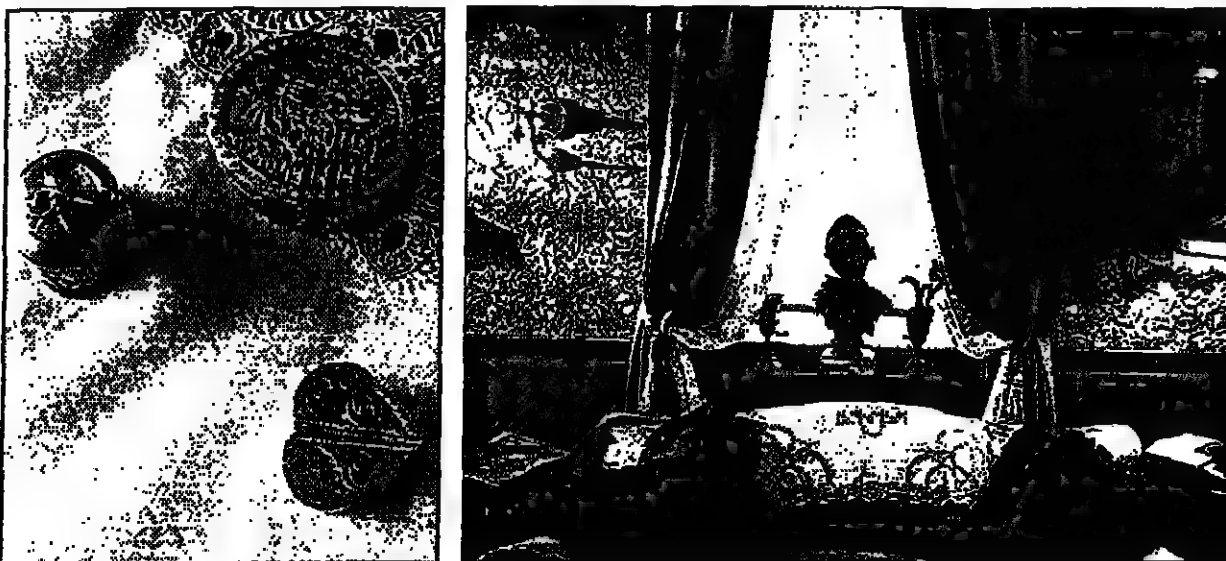
Ann Blockley, the watercolour artist, has designed this delightful tapestry of sheep and lambs surrounded by a wide and rich floral border of honeysuckle and spring flowers. The sheep in off-white, dove grey and charcoal stand in their field with the deeper blue-green of the Cotswold hills behind. The evening sky is flecked with pink, and the border is a riot of fresh, spring colour: soft primrose and sandy yellows, honeysuckle and faded rose pinks, a deeper carnation, apricot and pale marine blue are all set against the deeper greens of the leaves.

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Setting the scene: *Howard's End* interiors, above, were researched at the Sanderson library



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In the second of a series of election reports, Matthew d'Ancona looks at student woes of frozen grants, axed benefits and rising debt

## Voters can give hungry students food for thought

Six centuries after Chaucer wrote of the needy Oxford scholar, hollow-cheeked with penury and melancholy with hunger, students are still complaining about their lot. Twenty thousand of them marched through London last month in protest at hardship in higher education, hoping to sway the parliamentary committee which was then considering the future of student support.

In the event, the committee reached an unexpected impasse and decided to publish little more than a dossier of evidence. The questions which the enquiry was supposed to have addressed have, in effect, been delegated to the electorate.

Students were a favourite target in the stern climate of the 1980s, caricatured as privileged leeches on the body of the welfare state who guzzled the taxpayers' millions and then demanded more. But now, as examples of real hardship multiply, the picture is less clear.

"Most people see students as troublemakers or drug-smokers," says Judith Faul, aged 22, who is reading linguistics at the University of East Anglia. "It annoys me because it's difficult enough to study without worrying about money. What do you do if you don't know where the next meal is coming from?"

Miss Faul fell ill at the end of last year and was urged to suspend her studies until she recovered. As a result she lost her grant, and now owes her local authority £500. In spite of this, she cannot claim income support. She is able to budget only £10 a week for food, cannot afford over-the-counter medicines, and has almost exhausted her savings.

Hard cases are often dismissed as exceptional. But current statistics confirm that the levels of debt afflicting students can no longer be laughed off as the character-building prelude to a comfortable graduation.

career. The average overdraft at UEA is now £1,000, according to its student union.

A survey published last month showed that 49 per cent of students at the London School of Economics and Political Science were in debt and that 18 per cent owed more than £1,000. Similarly bleak findings were released in January by the Polytechnic of the South West, Plymouth.

David Ingram, vice-chancellor of Kent University, says that the problem is clear, although difficult to quantify. "I have the general sense that students are being hit by the removal of housing benefit and the freezing of the grant, and we're noticing that more are turning up in debt. The public do seem to feel this time that the students have a case."

Part of the problem is the nature of this recession which has not spared the middle-class heartlands of the south-east. Some 21 per cent of the respondents to the LSE survey said that one or both of their parents had been out of work at some stage in the past two years, a factor which has naturally taken its toll on parental contributions to grants. At the same time, students are no longer able to rely on casual vacation work for extra income.

The grant itself has failed conspicuously to keep pace with inflation. In real terms, the current annual award of £2,265 outside London is 24 per cent less than it was in 1978, and has been frozen since 1990. Student loans have offset this decline to some extent, and are being taken up by increasing numbers of students.

This month, the government announced a 25 per cent increase the maximum loan, keeping the "grant-plus-loan" package — the basis of Conservative policy on student support — above inflation. But, the National Union of Students complains, even the top-up loan leaves little room to breathe, citing its recent survey which showed that students spent 74 per



Banner headlines: 20,000 students marched through London last month to protest about grants

cent of their income on rent in 1991-2.

Both Opposition parties are committed to the abolition of loans and to an increased grant. Labour would immediately use the funds released from the loans system to push up the real value of the award, while the Liberal Democrats go further in promising to phase out the parental contribution altogether and introduce an entirely new student income entitlement, supplemented by a student allowance.

Perhaps the most immediate funding question facing the next government will be the tangle

caused by the withdrawal of benefits. A £25 million access fund was set up after students lost income support and housing benefit in 1990, although the year before they had claimed at least £66 million in these entitlements. Over-subscription to the new fund has already led colleges to borrow from resources allocated for future use. The Liberal Democrats would restore the withdrawn benefits, while Labour favours targeted housing assistance and will shortly announce plans for vacation support.

The re-structuring of higher education and the massive drive for

low-cost recruitment mean that students (and their parents) have much to lose in the years ahead. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said recently that lack of state aid may force universities to impose a top-up fee of £1,250 on every student.

In 1963, the Robbins report declared that higher-education courses "should be made available to all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them". The lot of students may not be a major issue in the election; but its result will be a crucial test of this once-hallowed dictum.

## Photos miss full picture

Further and higher education has featured in the election campaign largely as a photo opportunity for the party leaders. Fleeting conversations with students, surrounded by the most modern technology, presents just the right image for television news.

Debate on the issues has been much harder to find, perhaps because the recent passage of the Further and Higher Education Act has exhausted the campaigning possibilities. The Conservatives had most to say on the subject in their manifesto, but they had no new proposals to make.

Labour is yet to mount its education offensive, although it is already committed to the establishment of a Higher Education Standards Council and to a reform of student finance. The Liberal Democrats propose to widen the brief of Her Majesty's Inspectors to include universities; to introduce diplomas for students wanting less than a full degree course; and to abolish fees for part-time courses as part of their student finance package.

Apart from the parties' long-standing differences over student loans, higher education offers an unusual degree of consensus. The contentious subjects in post-school education are those which usually pass the electorate by: further and adult education.

The main parties have been trying to outbid each other on the scale of expansion in higher education. The Tories are committed to increasing by a third the proportion of school leavers going on to degrees and higher diplomas, while both Labour and the Liberal Democrats promise to double the number of students. All parties accept (but hardly stress) that the result will be larger teaching groups and more crowded campuses.

The main point of the Further and Higher Education Act involved the promotion of polytechnics to university status. The Tories have taken the credit for the change, but there has been little capital to be made since their opponents supported the policy. Opposition to student loans may

be more widespread, but is still likely to be concentrated in predominantly middle-class constituencies.

The National Union of Students has tried to overcome the difficulty of an out-of-term election by encouraging postal voting. It has targeted 70 marginal seats where its members could be influential. The union claims that 60,000 students have registered for postal votes, although it is not possible to verify its figures.

Conservative defeats in student constituencies have been few and far between, even in term-time elections, but the other two parties believe parental concern over student finances could swing seats. Tory candidates must hope that the improved take-up of loans indicates acceptance of the principle.

They must hope, too, that opposition among traditional Conservative voters to changes in adult education funding will not resurface before polling day. The strength of feeling against the division of adult education courses into broadly vocational and recreational categories does not appear to have been sufficient to override party loyalties on the main campaign issues.

The same may go for further education, which is a less obvious vote-winner for Labour. The party is promising to maintain local authority responsibility for more than 500 colleges, which have been granted independence. Most further-education principals relish the opportunity to emulate the success of the polytechnics, although there is less confidence at the sixth-form colleges, which will also become independent.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats promise corporate status for both types of college, but see advantages in maintaining traditional local links. Labour proposes to involve the Training and Enterprise Councils in a new planning network, while the Conservatives would implement plans for a national funding system.

JOHN O'LEARY

## The parties have been trying to outbid each other on the scale of expansion

## History in the making

VENTURE into St Albans cathedral on any morning during term-time and you will find the building buzzing with activity. You may encounter Abbot Paul of Caen, resplendent in purple mitre and carrying a gold crozier, instructing his master craftsmen to rebuild the crumbling Saxon monastery in the new Norman style. You may find yourself releasing a helium-filled balloon to measure the height of an arch, or meeting King Offa, and you will almost certainly witness the dramatic execution of Alban by Roman soldiers.

A medieval monk may be painstakingly illuminating a manuscript or you may become involved in the Peasants' Revolt. In short, you may find yourself — as astonished tourists frequently do — caught up in a re-enactment of the rich and fruitful history of this unique building, which next year celebrates the 800th anniversary of its foundation as a Benedictine monastery.

St Albans Cathedral Education Centre uses the building, and the Roman city of Verulamium which it overlooks, as a multi-purpose resource, bringing history, geography, architecture, religion, literature, art, craft and even mathematics to life.

Established eight years ago at the suggestion of the cathedral's sub-dean, Colin Slee, the centre tomorrow receives its second full Sandford Award from the Heritage Education Trust in recognition of its outstanding work.

Susanna Ainsworth, the centre's education officer and a former secondary teacher, has two full-time office staff and 40 skilled volunteers. Despite cramped office accommodation and scant resources, she and her colleagues plan and implement an ambitious range of hands-on tours and practical workshops for primary and secondary pupils, including programmes for groups with special needs.

They offer an impressive range of carefully-researched off-the-peg activities, with programmes such as Black Death and Peasants' Revolt lying in with National Curriculum requirements. These activities are backed up by visits to schools and substantial information packs.

## St Albans cathedral has expanded its historical teaching to include the Black Death and Peasants' Revolt



Where there's a quill: how they wrote in medieval times

leagues plan and implement an ambitious range of hands-on tours and practical workshops for primary and secondary pupils, including programmes for groups with special needs.

They offer an impressive range of carefully-researched off-the-peg activities, with programmes such as Black Death and Peasants' Revolt lying in with National Curriculum requirements. These activities are backed up by visits to schools and substantial information packs.

Most are in the form of historical role-plays with costumes, cleverly-chosen props and beautifully-produced badges of office. The medieval craftsmen's trail, for example, centres on the construction of the building and involves the use of building materials, chisels, saws, mallets and paints which the children are encouraged to handle and, where possible, use in situ.

Workshop activities include Roman calligraphy on wax tablet or scroll, stained glass, mosaics, illuminated lettering

and heraldry. They are not offered in isolation, but form the focal point of a wide-ranging experience.

Ms Ainsworth believes the centre's strength is its ability to respond to the precise needs of a particular group. Recently it has tailor-made programmes on the Five Senses, Shape, Old and New, the Victorian Classroom and even Vikings.

"We have to cater for all sorts of requests and abilities. Some children are thoroughly prepared before they come here and obviously they get more out of a visit," she says. "Others know nothing and we have to adapt accordingly. That's where the training comes in."

Ten thousand children passed through the centre last year and demand is increasing. Running costs are a mere £45,000 a year and charges to schools a minimal £1 per child per activity.

Unlike wealthier establishments such as York Minster, St Albans cathedral can offer only modest financial support to the enterprise. The centre is appealing for £300,000 for equipment and to give the salaried staff security of tenure.

Canon Slee believes the centre is at the most exciting point in its history. "We have proved the centre's value with infant and junior age-groups, but there are huge areas to tackle in higher and further education, not least in training teachers how to use places like this. There is also scope in colleges of art, architecture and building. The possibilities are endless."

SUSAN STURROCK

St Albans Cathedral Education Centre: 0727 864738  
Heritage Education Trust: 081-892 0051

## LONDON GRADUATE RECRUITMENT FAIR



More than 100 exhibitors have booked places for the London Graduate Recruitment Fair in June at the Business Design Centre in Islington. The event total is expected to exceed 150.

The fair forms the first part of New Directions Week '92, partly sponsored by The Times and The

Sunday Times. Graduate recruitment is the theme from June 30 until July 2 and the Schools Fair follows on July 3 and 4. Some 45,000 people are expected to attend the two events.

The organisers, London University's careers service, have extended this year's fair to include postgraduate

institutes, colleges offering vocational programmes and providers of specific skills courses as well as employers. At least four countries will be represented in the fair's European pavilion. Companies will test students' suitability for various careers, and a "CV surgery" will offer advice on applications.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

### APPLIED LINGUISTICS

The University of Strathclyde invites applications for a new post within the innovative Programme in Literary Linguistics. Candidates should have teaching and research experience in Higher Education and specialist expertise in applied linguistics (TESOL). The successful candidate will play a leading role in developing and teaching courses on all aspects of ELT for a new ESL in-service degree programme for teachers and will also contribute to the MLLit. in Linguistics for the Teaching of English Language and Literature.

Preference will be given to TESOL specialists - applications will also be welcomed from candidates who can contribute to existing courses. Current research and teaching interests include: theoretical linguistics, sociolinguistics, literary and media stylistics. Appointments may be made at Lecturer A or B level or at Senior Lecturer level depending on the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.

For application form and further particulars (Ref 25/92) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications Closing Date: 21st April 1992.

## UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

### THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD LECTURESHIP IN SPANISH

Applications are invited for the above post, available from 1 October 1992 to the Department of Hispanic Studies. From candidates with a native or near-native command of Spanish who have a commitment to modern language-teaching methods and an interest in contemporary areas relating to Spain and/or Latin America. The appointee will be expected to have a strong research interest, preferably in the field of language-teaching methodology or an innovative aspect of contemporary Spanish or Latin American studies, although interests in other areas will be considered.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 5DA (0114) 275 0000 and 4141, to whom applications, including a full CV and the names/addresses of three referees (three copies of all documents, should be sent by 24 April 1992. Ref: 22006. An Equal Opportunities Employer.

## UNIVERSITY OF READING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from graduates with good organisational and communication skills for two posts of Administrative Assistant (from a date to be arranged in August or September 1992). Initially one post will be in the office of the Faculty of Science and one in the Registrar's Central Office. Salary scale: Administrative Staff Grade 1 £12,129 to £14,339 p.a. (under review) plus USS benefits.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, READING, RG6 2AH. Tel (0734) 318751. Please quote Ref P109. Closing date 1 May 1992.

## LECTURESHIPS



### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON FACULTY OF LAWS LECTURER IN REC AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

A vacancy will exist from 1 October 1992 for a Lecturer who will be expected to teach on undergraduate and postgraduate courses in REC Law. Preference will be given to candidates who also have interests in the area of Environmental Law.

The post will be on the Lecturer B scale (£18752 to £23739 plus London Weighting of £2042).

Further particulars may be obtained from Professor R.A. Hepple, Dean of the Faculty of Laws, University College London, Benham House, Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG, to whom applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to reach him by 1 May 1992. Equal opportunities Employer.

## UNIVERSITY OF READING

### LECTURESHIPS IN ITALIAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for 2 Lectureships in the Department of Italian Studies from 1 October 1992. One post is permanent (subject to a probationary period) and the other for a fixed term of 12 months.

Candidates must be able to teach Italian languages at all levels and have teaching and research interests in Italian literature - applicants specialising in Dante and the Renaissance (including Art) especially welcome.

Salary: £12860 to £17827 p.a. (Grade A) for the permanent post and up to £14389 p.a. for the fixed term post - plus USS benefits for both posts.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Telephone (0734) 318751. Please quote Ref. AC 9207. Closing date 24 April 1992.

## UNIVERSITY OF READING LECTURER IN CLASSICS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Classics from 1 October 1992. Candidates' fields of interest may be in any aspect of Greek culture. Ability to teach courses in Greek art and archaeology desirable. The post will involve responsibility for the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

Salary Scale £12,860 to £17,827 p.a. (Grade A) plus USS benefits. Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, READING, RG6 2AH. Tel (0734) 318751. Please quote Ref AC 9208. Closing date 8 May 1992.



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**Times** readers can save up to 50 per cent on a weekend break in Britain — and get two nights for the price of one on the Continent — when staying in style at a Hilton hotel

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In Britain, you can choose from any one of 35 hotels in 26 cities and towns. In London, there's a choice of ten hotels.

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your two-night stay would cost £81 — a saving of £27.

● And remember, the saving for a couple taking a weekend break would be double.

On the Continent, there are more savings, with two nights for the price of one at any one of 29 hotels in 12 countries, including Egypt and Turkey.

For example: in Italy, a weekend at the Rome Cavalieri Hilton would cost £107 for each guest, instead of £214. In France, at the Paris Hilton, £113, instead of £226. In Austria, at the Vienna Hilton, £91, instead of £182.

Or, you might choose to visit Hungary, staying at the Budapest Hilton, which overlooks the Danube: £77 for two nights, instead of £154. Or, maybe a weekend in Greece, staying at the Athens Hilton, not far from the Acropolis: £88, instead of £176.

Wherever you choose to go, and whenever — up to September 9 next — take advantage of this *Times* offer and enjoy the good life to be had at a Hilton hotel at up to half the price.

● **Start planning now:** choose where you want to go, in Britain or on the Continent, from the hotel listings on this page. Then read the How to Book details, printed on the right.

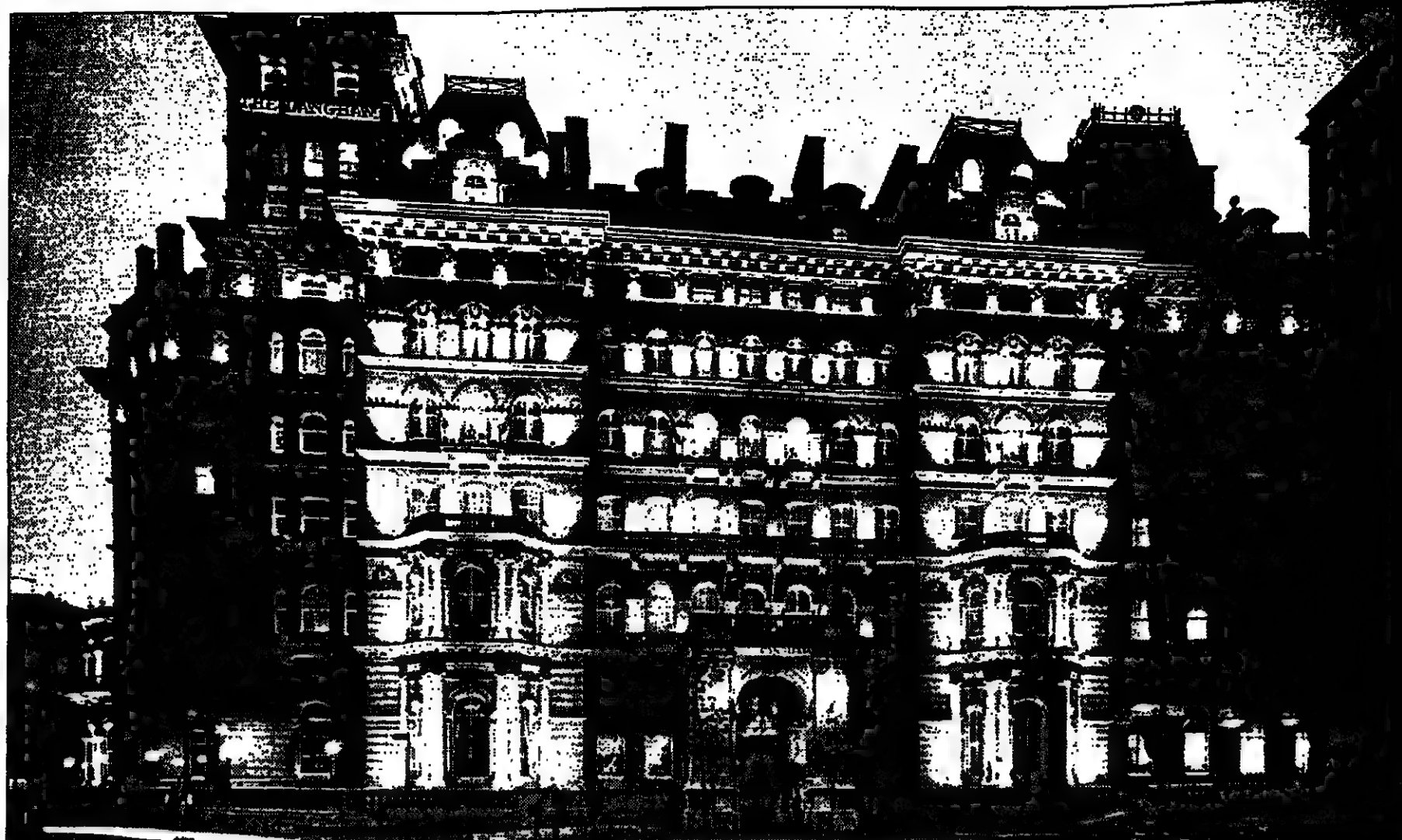
● **Start collecting tokens:** the first one is printed below; cut it out and save it. Tomorrow, and daily until Saturday, further differently numbered tokens will be printed: save these too. Then, on Saturday (when you have collected five of the six tokens), you can confirm your reservation on the special booking form in *The Times*.

## Start collecting now

■ This is your first money-saving token. Cut it out now and save it



■ Tomorrow and each day this week until Saturday, further tokens will be printed in *The Times*. Collect any five of the six differently numbered tokens and you will be ready to cash in on this money-saving luxury hotel break offer



Set for a stylish weekend: wherever you go in Britain, or on the Continent, you'll find luxurious comfort. The Langham, above, is one of central London's newest hotels

## Weekend breaks in Britain

● Hilton hotels offering a 25 per cent discount to readers of *The Times*:

### LONDON

★ Hilton on Park Lane	£63.75
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★ Mews Hilton	£45.00
★ Sherlock Holmes Hotel	£43.50
★ Kensington Hilton	£45.00
★ Regents Park Hilton	£45.00

### AROUND LONDON

Royal Berkshire, Ascot	£48.75
Hilton National, Cobham	£45.00

### NATIONWIDE

Hilton National, Bath	£51.00
Hilton National, Newport	£36.00
★ Linton Lodge, Oxford	£40.50
Hilton National, Warwick	£48.00
★ Balmer Lawn, Brockenhurst	£45.00

● Hotels offering a 50 per cent discount:

### LONDON

★ Plaza on Hyde Park	£29.00
London Olympia Hotel	£30.00
Hilton National Wembley	£27.00
★ The Clive Hotel, Hampstead	£27.00

### AROUND LONDON

★ London Gatwick Airport Hilton	£27.00
Hilton National Hornchurch	£21.00
Hilton National Watford	£25.00

### NATIONWIDE

Bristol Hilton	£30.00
Hilton Lodge, Basingstoke	£21.50
Hilton National, Bracknell	£25.00
Hilton National, Newbury	£28.00
Hilton National Coventry (opens July)	£25.00
Hilton National Edinburgh	£35.00
Hilton National East Midlands	£27.50
Pennine Hilton National	£27.00
Hilton National Leeds Garforth	£27.00
Leeds Hilton	£27.00
Hilton National Livingston, Lothian	£24.00
Manchester Airport Hilton	£29.00
Hilton National Portsmouth	£30.00
Hilton National Southampton	£30.00
Hilton National Swansea	£23.00

★ Hotels with single supplements

★ Associate hotels

■ All rates are valid from April 4 until September 9, 1992, and are per person per night based on two people sharing a twin/double room, for a minimum two-night stay (which must include Saturday night). Prices include full English breakfast and VAT at 17.5 per cent.

## HOW TO BOOK

TO QUALIFY for any one of these Hilton hotel breaks, simply collect five of the six differently numbered tokens printed in *The Times* each day this week. The first token is printed below.

Once you have collected five tokens, you can make a reservation by phone immediately.

● For UK weekend breaks, phone Hilton Central Reservations on 0923 244400, quoting T192.

● For overseas bookings, phone 081-780 1155, quoting T1.

● Next Saturday, *The Times* will print a booking form. Hilton Reservations must receive your booking form and five differently numbered tokens (with a £10 deposit for each guest for UK weekend breaks only) within ten days of your phoned booking.

Breaks are available for a minimum of two consecutive nights between a Thursday and a Sunday (Friday and Sunday overseas), and must

include a Saturday night. Single supplements apply as indicated on the list of hotels.

Bookings must be made, and accommodation taken, before September 9, 1992. All breaks are subject to availability and apply only to the hotels listed. The usual *Times* promotion offer rules apply.

● Further details can be requested by calling the *Times/Hilton* Brochure Hotline on 0235 865656, quoting T192 for UK weekend breaks or T1 for overseas breaks.

### CHILDREN

In the UK, up to two children under 16 stay free when sharing their parents' room (if a suitable room is available). Meals are charged as taken (breakfast at UK hotels costs £5 a child). Children's rooms are available in the UK at £14 a child a night, including breakfast. Children's discounts are not available at the Balmer Lawn Hotel, London Hilton on Park Lane or Langham Hilton.

## Stay in style on the Continent

Take your pick from 12 countries — including Egypt and Turkey — and enjoy two nights for the price of one

THINKING of taking a weekend break on the Continent... somewhere romantic such as Rome, Paris, Vienna, Cannes, even Cairo or Istanbul? Now is the ideal time for you, and perhaps your partner, to experience and enjoy the luxurious Hilton service overseas.

With the help of *The Times* tokens, two people can stay for two nights — at any one of 29 hotels in 12 countries — for the price of one night. Full breakfast is included.

Just take your choice and make your reservation (see How to Book, above).

● Hotels in Europe offering two nights for the price of one at standard midweek rates. Prices are approximate £ sterling conversion.

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Vienna Hilton	£45.50
Vienna Plaza	£69.00

### BELGIUM

Brussels Hilton	£40.00
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### EGYPT

Nile Hilton, Cairo	£30.50
Ramses Hilton, Cairo	£27.50

### FRANCE

Paris Orly Airport Hilton	£36.50
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See the best of Budapest: the Hilton overlooks the Danube

Paris Hilton	£56.50	Dusseldorf Hilton	£33.00
Noga Hilton, International, Cannes	from £69.50	Munich City Hilton	£35.50
Strasbourg Hilton	£37.00	Munich Park Hilton	£35.50

### GERMANY

Berlin Hilton	from £38.50
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### GREECE

Athens Hilton	£44.00
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### HUNGARY

Budapest Hilton	£38.50
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### ITALY

Rome Cavalieri, Hilton	£53.50
Milan Hilton	£58.50

### SPAIN

Barcelona Hilton (not available during the Olympics)	£46.50
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### SWITZERLAND

Basel Hilton	£35.00
Noga Hilton International, Geneva	£54.00
Zurich Kloten Airport Hilton	£31.00

### THE NETHERLANDS

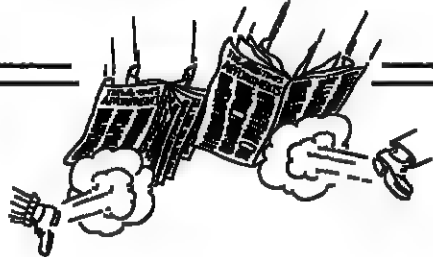
Amsterdam Hilton	£45.50
Schiphol Airport Hilton, Amsterdam	£35.50
Rotterdam Hilton	£33.00

### TURKEY

Ankara Hilton	£31.00
Istanbul Hilton	£45.50
Parksa Hilton, Istanbul	£34.50
Izmir Hilton	£31.00
Mersin Hilton	£23.50

● Prices are for each guest for each night (minimum two nights between Friday and Sunday) and include full breakfast. For all European bookings, payment is made on departure from the hotel.

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## Purpose of judicial review

**Regina v Independent Television Commission, Ex parte TSW Broadcasting Ltd**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Lowy  
[Speeches March 26]

Members of the Independent Television Commission had carefully considered the application of Television South West for a Channel 3 licence, in particular with regard to its revenue forecasts, costs and profitability, as well as the amount of the bid.

Their decision rejecting the application on the ground that TSW would not be able to maintain the service throughout the 10-year period of the licence was not one with which the court would interfere by way of judicial review.

The House of Lords so stated giving reasons for dismissing an appeal by TSW from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nolan, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, dissenting) (The Times February 7) which had dismissed the application for judicial review of the ITC's decision to refuse their application for a licence under the Broadcasting Act 1990. The successful applicant had been Westcountry Television Ltd.

Mr Gordon Pollock, QC and Mr Geoffrey Vos for TSW, Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr David Pannick for ITC, Mr Thomas Morrison, QC and Mr William J. Wood for Westcountry TV.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the provisions of the 1990 Act inevitably created a number of problems for the ITC and for applicants.

His Lordship reviewed the facts of the case and concluded that in view of the evidence there was no scope for the court to interfere. The members of the ITC had carefully considered the application and its crucial forecasts of revenue, costs, profitability and the amount of the bid.

They found that in the light of their general experience, and particular experience of the 40 bids for Channel 3 licences, it did not appear to them that TSW would be able to maintain the service for the licence period. They were therefore bound to reject the application.

Parliament might by statute confer powers and discretions and impose duties on a decision maker who might be an individual, a body of persons or a corporation. It might or might not provide machinery for an appeal against a decision, which might be concerned with fact or law or both and might or might not involve the courts of law.

Where Parliament had not provided for an appeal from a decision maker the courts were not to invent an appeal machinery. Here Parliament had conferred powers and discretions and had imposed duties on the ITC. It had not provided an appeal machinery.

Even if the ITC had made mistakes of fact or of law there was no appeal from their decision.

The courts had invented the remedy of judicial review not to provide an appeal machinery but to ensure that the decision maker did not exceed or abuse his powers.

The rules of natural justice did not render a decision invalid because the decision maker or his advisers made a mistake of fact or law.

Only if the reasons given by the ITC disclosed illegality, irrationality or procedural impropriety could the decision be open to judicial review. See *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* (1985) AC 374, 410 and *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223, 228-229.

The procedure adopted by the ITC for the consideration of applications was admirable. The papers and evidence disclosed that the qualified staff and the experienced members of the ITC carried out their duties properly.

TSW's criticisms of staff assessment paper 179/91 only amounted to an ingenious invitation to the court to substitute its own views for those of the ITC and to quash or refer back the decision with an indication that the court was impressed with the criticisms and took a more favourable view of TSW's application than the ITC had done.

Judicial review did not merely because a decision maker had made a mistake and it was not permissible to probe the advice he received or to require particulars or administer

interrogatories, or to cross-examine in order to discover the existence of a mistake by him or his advisers.

Where a decision was made in good faith following a proper procedure and as a result of conscientious consideration an applicant for judicial review was not entitled to relief save on the grounds established in the *Wednesbury* case.

Examination of the reasons given on behalf of the ITC which had been based on but not dictated by the staff papers did not indicate any mistake of law or any omission to consider matters which the ITC ought to have taken into account and there was no indication that they considered any irrelevant matters.

Even if there had been mistakes in the papers it was plain from the ITC and the papers that the ITC knew all about the forecasts and assumptions made by TSW, knew all about its financial position, the forecasts, assumptions and financial circumstances of other bidders and formed their own view, as they were bound to do, of what was likely to happen in the future and formed the view which they alone were authorised to direct and competent to form, that TSW would not be able to maintain their service throughout the licence period.

Lord Goff delivered a concurring speech and Lord Keith, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowy agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwaite Allen & Overy; Goodman Derrick & Co.

## Seeking production of material

**Regina v Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court, Ex parte Salfinger and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Popplewell  
[Judgment March 25]

When an application was made for an order requiring the production of material for the purpose of an investigation under Schedule 7 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989, the approach should be to provide the recipient of the order, as early as possible, with as much information about the evidence relied upon in support of the application as was consistent with the security of the operation.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing applications by Mr Pierre Salfinger and ABC News International for judicial review of orders made by Judge Clarke, QC, sitting at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 to the 1989 Act for production of video recordings and documents relating to interviews with the people suspected of being responsible for the Lockerbie bombing.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC and Mr Dominic Dowley for the applicants; Mr Peter W. Clarke for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the relevant parts of the 1989 Act came into force on March 22, 1989 but no Crown Court rules had been made under paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 7.

Those provisions were no doubt derived from similar provisions in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, 1984 and the expression "specialist material" had the meaning given in that Act.

There was one important difference between the two Acts. Under the 1989 Act application was made *ex parte* but a respondent could apply to discharge or vary the order. Under the 1984 Act the application was made *inter partes*.

The mere change from an *inter partes* application to one made *ex parte* did not bear a great significance. In applications under the 1984 Act the information and its source might be sensitive, although it was more likely to be so under the 1989 Act.

There might indeed be occasions when the nature and identity of the source of information and perhaps also the information itself in the case of a terrorism investigation was of such a nature that it was not appropriate to disclose it even to the judge.

But even if it was disclosed to him, it would rarely be appropriate or necessary to disclose the information to the plaintiff.

nature and identity of the source of information to the recipient of the order; and it was equally inappropriate to disclose it to counsel and solicitors even on an undertaking of confidentiality.

Nevertheless, the recipient of the order should be given as much information as he properly could as to the grounds upon which the application was made, either at the time the order was served upon him or, if he decided to make an application to discharge or vary the order, before or at the time of the hearing of the application.

It was unfortunate that no rules had yet been made under paragraph 4(1) of the Schedule. In their absence the court had been asked to give guidance to those involved in such applications.

The court did so but it had to emphasise that it was not intended to be hard and fast rules. Since much would depend upon the judge's discretion as to how information should be disclosed and at what stage.

1 The *ex parte* application should be accompanied by a written statement of the material evidence upon which the constable wished to rely to persuade the judge that the conditions laid down had been fulfilled.

That statement should not disclose other than that which was information if, as was likely to be the case, it was sensitive. It should normally contain the nature of the information unless there were grounds for thinking that it too was secret and should not be disclosed.

The constable should appear before the judge and be ready to supplement his statement by oral evidence. It would rarely be necessary or desirable for the judge to enquire into the constable to disclose the nature and identity of the source of information; but it might well be necessary for the constable to amplify the nature of the information itself, especially if that had not been fully disclosed in the written statement.

2 If the judge was satisfied that the conditions were met and he decided to make the order, he should give directions as to what, if any, information should be served with the order itself.

While it was not essential that such information should be given in writing and could be given orally, it was normally desirable that it should be, and the court would expect it normally to take the form of the written statement from the constable.

In deciding whether the recipient should be given more or less information than that contained in the written statement or whether no information should be given at that stage, the judge would obviously pay regard to the submission made by or on behalf of the constable. The information should be as full as possible without compromising security.

3 If the judge decided that it was inappropriate for any information other than that which was contained in the order itself to be served on the recipient at the time the order was served he should consider whether it should be served in the event of an application to discharge or vary being made.

It was clearly desirable, if it could be done without risk to security, that the information should be available to the recipient of the order before the hearing of the application to discharge, since if this was not made available till that time it was possible that there might need to be an adjournment.

4 An application to discharge or vary the production order should, if possible, be made before the judge who made the *ex parte* order. It was desirable that the same officer, if he gave oral evidence at the *ex parte* hearing, should also attend.

In most cases sufficient information would have been given to the recipient before the hearing of the application to discharge, but if it had not, it might be supplemented by oral evidence from the applying constable or some other police officer. Questions should not be permitted as to the nature or identity of the source of information. If the nature of the information itself was sensitive in the sense that it might compromise the security of the investigation, the judge should not allow the questions. He should tell the respondent that it was the case that he had been given information which satisfied him that the conditions were met; but that the information could not be disclosed.

The overall objective should be to provide the recipient of the order with as much information, preferably in writing, as early as possible provided this was consistent with the security of the operation.

Mr Justice Popplewell agreed.

Solicitors: Marriott & Co; CPS.

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## Suitability of home for baby is relevant

**Regina v Medina Borough Council, Ex parte Dee**  
Before Mr Justice Henry  
[Judgment March 24]

In determining whether it was reasonable for an applicant to continue to occupy her accommodation, the housing authority needed to have regard to the physical condition and the suitability of the premises for all those affected by their decision.

Mr Justice Henry, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in granting an application for judicial review by Miss Alison Margaret Dee and quashing decisions of Medina Borough Council on April 25, 1991 and November 14, 1991, as the local housing authority, that the applicant was not homeless within the meaning of section 58 of the Housing Act 1985.

The applicant had a tenancy of a prefabricated beach bungalow. The condition of the chalet had deteriorated so much that in her view it was unfit for human habitation. She was pregnant at the material time and her medical practitioner and health visitor advised her that the accommodation would not be suitable for her newly born child.

The council, however, did not find the dwelling unfit for human habitation under section 604 of the 1985 Act despite the deterioration of the dwelling as a result of damp and mould caused by condensation.

After the applicant had given birth to her baby she did not return to the chalet but took unlawful residence at premises nearby. She had then applied to the council for rehoming as a person who was either homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Mr Peter Towler for the applicant; Miss Mary Cook for the council.

MR JUSTICE HENRY said that under section 58(2A) of the 1985 Act, as inserted by section 14(2) of the Housing and Planning Act 1986, the question was whether it was reasonable for the applicant to continue to occupy the accommodation.

In answering that question regard might be had to the general circumstances prevailing in relation to housing in the district of the local housing authority. Section 58(2B) of the 1985 Act, as inserted.

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In the instant case the applicant was a mother expecting her first child. Her doctor had written a letter stating that it was not safe for her to bring her newly born baby to the chalet. Her health visitor had also expressed similar concerns.

Although the dwelling was not found to be unfit for human habitation, that decision did not address the question as to whether it was reasonable for her to have returned to the dwelling with a newly born baby in the face of professional advice. The applicant could not be expected to have overridden the decision of her medical advisers as being too cautious.

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The council, however, did not find the dwelling unfit for human habitation under section 604 of the 1985 Act despite the deterioration of the dwelling as a result of damp and mould caused by condensation.

After the applicant had given birth to her baby she did not return to the chalet but took unlawful residence at premises nearby. She had then applied to the council for rehoming as a person who was either homeless or threatened with homelessness.

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## BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax (81214) 6.30 Breakfast News (57283498)  
9.05 Election Call introduced by Jonathan Dimbleby. Labour's John Prescott is questioned by viewers on election issues. To participate, ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1037255)  
10.00 News, regional news and weather (8371905) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (8867030)  
10.25 The Family Ness. Monster cartoon (r) (8374092) 10.35 Gibberish. Celebrity word game (s) (8834059)  
11.00 News, regional news and weather (4516059) 11.05 Rosemary Conley. The health, fitness and diet programme, today from Princes Square Shopping Centre, Glasgow (3464585)  
11.30 People Today. Magazine series (2440498)  
12.20 Pabbie Mill presented by Judi Sifers (s) (2360127)  
12.55 News, regional news and weather (6058011)  
1.00 News and weather (20030)  
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (4142506)  
1.50 Turnabout. Rob Curling presents the quiz game that tests vocabulary (s) (9102627)  
2.15 Knots Landing. American drama series (3071837)  
3.00 The Odd Couple. Comedy with Jack Klugman and Tony Randall (8311479)  
3.25 Bazaar. Includes financial advice from Alison Mitchell, fashion news from Roella Benjamin and Lesley Waters's demonstration of how to cook paella (8323214)  
3.50 Radio 5 (s) (6899263) 4.05 Jacksons. Patricia Routledge reads *Lizzie Lippin* and *The Witch* (s) (5417769)  
4.20 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) (4220189)  
4.30 Take Two presented by Sarah Greene (Ceefax) (s) (4074045)  
4.55 Newsworld (5523059)  
5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (8002585)  
5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (807672)  
6.00 News and weather (547)  
6.30 Regional News Magazines (127)  
7.00 Wogan. With Nigel Planer, Sarah Miles and Natalie Rebeiz-Nielsen (s) (4905)  
7.30 Watchdog. The consumer affairs programme (951)



Fitting their wits: Karl Howman, Geraldine McEwan (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Mulberry. Last in the limp comedy series pitting handyman Karl Howman against his cantankerous employer (Geraldine McEwan). (Ceefax) (s) (3653)  
8.30 Mary's Best Friend. Desmond Morris introduces a series about the wildness of apparently domestic pets (r) (Ceefax) (2160)  
9.00 News, campaign report and weather (367363)  
9.50 Party Election Broadcast: The Labour party (916721)  
10.00 Panorama Leaders. David Dimbleby interviews the Labour leader, Neil Kinnock (995721)  
10.40 Cagney And Lacey. American detective series, Christine and Mary Beth investigate the death of a movie queen (r) (Ceefax) (s) (441583)  
11.30 The Victorian Kitchen. The beginning. Peter Thoday presents the first of 13 shows in which a well-used garden is restored to what would have been 100 years ago (r) (Ceefax) (95856)  
12.00 Advice Shop. A discussion on the achievements of the Equal Opportunities Commission (r) (1806290)  
12.20 On The Hustings. Ian MacWhirter presents highlights of the evening's campaign speeches around the country (8432219)  
12.50 Weather (1910649). End at 12.55

## VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes+ numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders on 0599 11204 (calls charged at 40p per minute peak, 30p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus+, VHS Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+, VHS, Radio 1 and Video Programmer are trademarks of General Marketing Ltd.

## BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University (9892301) 7.35 Interval 8.00 Breakfast News (9051382) 8.15 Northern Arts (r) (9041905) 8.30 Boasting Butler (r) (29740)  
9.00 Film: The Next Voice You Hear (1950, b/w). James Whitmore and Nancy Davis (later Reagan) in a story about a factory worker who hears the voice of God on his radio. Directed by William A. Wellman (5838160)  
10.20 Film: The Country Girl (1955). Grace Kelly as the disillusioned wife of alcoholic singer Bing Crosby in a somber drama from Clifford Odets. Directed by George Seaton (1135837)  
12.00 News. Religious broadcasting in New Mexico (30856)  
12.30 Born of Fire. Earthquakes and volcanoes (r) (9801671) 1.20 Film: The Great Escape (1963) (r) 1.35 In The Post (r) (9628102)  
2.00 News and weather (1059)  
2.00 Impressions. Yorkshire mill owner, George Leat (r) (32368585)  
2.15 Photography, Television... And The Occasional Grape. Paraphrased photographer, Bruce Brown, talks about his new job (994635) 2.45 In The Garden (1229127)  
3.00 News and weather (3911052)  
3.05 Village Praise (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6510092)  
3.40 Glynis Christian's Serendipity. Reporting on tea production in Sri Lanka (r) (4088337)  
3.50 News and weather (4977721)  
4.00 The World's Greatest Showmen (213905)  
4.50 Film 92 with Barry Norman (r) (s) (3021672)  
5.20 One In Four. Politicians talk to disabled people (1960160)  
6.00 The Addams Family (b/w). Classic comedy (Ceefax) (558769)  
6.25 The Best Prince Of Bel Air (746498)



At the grass roots of football: host Simon O'Brien (6.50pm)

- 6.50 DEF It: Standing Room Only.  
● CHOICE: Billed as the thinking fan's football show, *Standing Room Only* has established itself as a bright and irreverent antidote to standard soccer coverage on the box, attempting to articulate the feelings of the supporter on the terraces rather than the man in the commentary box. The new series promises the mixture as before, raising issues, interviewing celebrities and reflecting the game at the grass roots. David Baddiel and Rob Newman of *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* are on hand with more satirical input, though they will have to be careful. One of their items last time ridiculed the idea that Kenny Dalglish would join Blackburn Rovers. Tonight's ingredients include a burly, bearded and very sober George Best, recalling glory moments and the accusation that Liverpool and Everton are ignoring local black talent (1:05:50)  
7.25 Tex Avery (215498) 7.30 Young Musician Of The Year. Piano semi-final (s) (62547)  
8.10 Horizon: A Diet for a Lifetime (782837)  
● CHOICE: A film which touches on social history almost as much as science looks into possible links between the diet of pregnant women and the diseases which afflict their offspring half a century later. Professor David Barker of the Medical Research Council is a firm advocate of the theory that the incidence of heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure in adult life can be related to the nutrition taken by the mother before, during and immediately after the birth. For his evidence Barker turns to health records going back to the early part of the century. His findings have gone unheeded by the medical profession, but they may be of use in living in adulthood have just as much effect on heart disease and other disorders. In any case no one knows what the perfect diet for a pregnant woman should be (78:2837)  
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Topical comedy (s) (1030)  
9.30 The Old Devils. Final part of the Kingsley Amis adaptation with Alun Weaver still writing his Welsh novel (Ceefax) (s) (95858)  
10.30 Party Election Broadcast: The Labour party (Ceefax) (987547)  
10.40 Newsnight. News and analysis (156050)  
11.35 The Late Show. Live arts show (s) (31566)  
12.15 News (767689)  
12.20 Open University (8423561). Ends at 12.50

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (9936059)  
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game hosted by Lennie Bennett (9564295)  
9.55 Regional News (6429382)  
10.00 The Time... The Place... Current affairs discussion hosted by John Stapleton (6985059)  
10.40 This Morning. Magazine programme with Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley live from Liverpool's Albert Dock (4747276)  
12.10 Rosie and Jim. Puppet series (9640654)  
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News and weather (Oracle) (7029276)  
1.10 Regional News (77499479)  
1.20 Home and Away (Oracle) (6306295)  
1.50 A Country Practice. Australian drama (s) (96295295)  
2.20 Yan Can Cook. Cooking with bean curd or tofu (46390011)  
2.50 Families (s) (6490295)  
3.15 News (3938769) 3.20 Regional News (3928382)  
3.25 The Young Doctors. Medical soap (8309634)  
3.55 Cartoon: Road Runner (r) (6933030)  
4.00 Wall of the Banisher. Fantasy adventure series (Oracle) (s) (6527479)  
4.25 Chieftain Dale: Rescue Rangers (r) (5289949)  
4.50 Art Attack. Featuring foot-printed stationery and painting with glue. With Neil Buchanan (5255634)  
5.10 Blockbusters. Quiz with Bob Holness (8056924)  
5.40 ITN News with John Suchet (792301) Weather  
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Oracle) (943)  
6.30 Regional News (Oracle) (268295)  
6.55 Party Election Broadcast: The Labour party (694856)  
7.00 The Magic Comedy Strip. With American comic magicians, Rudy Coby, David Williamson and Jeff Holston. Also with a guest magician from Britain, Joe Pasquale (s) (2301)  
7.30 Coronation Street (Oracle) (479)  
8.00 Take Your Pick. Quiz game with Des O'Connor (s) (8721)  
8.30 World In Action. An investigation into MP's business activities and the ways in which they can use their jobs in Parliament to make money (7856)



Vanishing actress: Sue Jenkins with Harry Dickman (9.00pm)

- 9.00 In Suspicious Circumstances.  
● CHOICE: Edward Woodward once more assumes the mantle of the late Edgar Lustgarten and introduces dramatised reconstructions of real-life mysteries. Since last year's pilot the ration of cases has sensibly been reduced from three to two per programme and the show seems to have dropped the claim to offer fresh evidence. Both of tonight's yarns are left tantalisingly in the air, though none the worse for that. The first concerns a minor actress (played by Sue Jenkins) who disappeared in 1949 during a tour of her novel *The Dancing Years*. An unfortunate love life may have been the key. The other playlet is set in the 1920s and involves Victor Grayson, a former socialist MP, Maundy Gregory, who sold honours for Lloyd-George and Gregory's wealthy woman companion. The two of the three met murky ends (4479)  
10.00 News at Ten (Oracle) Weather (28011)  
10.30 Regional News (907301)  
10.40 Film: The Stone Killer (1973). Violent and distasteful Michael Winner film starring Charles Bronson as a brutal plain-does detective cleaning up the criminal underworld of Los Angeles. (21:30:11)  
12.30 Sportsweek Extra. Tony Francis introduces highlights of the weekend's football from the Barclays League and the continent (25509)  
1.30 Film: The Forbidden Street (1950). Unconvincing romantic drama about a young girl (Maureen O'Hara) who is ostracised by her family after she marries a drunken art teacher (Dana Andrews). Directed by John Huston (4634)  
3.30 Resop the Whirlwind. Drama series set in 19th-century South Africa (s) (92054)  
4.30 Stage 1. Last in the series, featuring Class of 91 (s) (40615)  
5.30 ITN Morning News (18702). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3927301)  
9.25 Film: Squibs (1935, b/w). Cheerful British musical featuring the 1920s star, Betty Balfour, in the sound remake of her most famous film in which she plays a cockney flower-seller. Co-starring Stanley Holloway. Directed by Henry Edwards (3410721)  
10.45 The Lion's Den. Silhouette animation (6116160)  
11.00 Kingdom of the Deep. Documentary on the filming of wildlife on the Galapagos Islands. Narrated by Andrew Sachs (r) (19324)  
12.00 Right to Reply. With Sherrin McDonald (r) (Teletext) (s) (25924)  
12.30 Business Daily. Financial news and analysis (51837)  
1.00 Sesame Street. Children's series (49092)  
2.00 Film: Hudson's Bay (1940, b/w). Well-made story of a trading company in 17th-century Canada. With Paul Muni, Laird Cregar and Vincent Price. Directed by Irving Pichel (322905)  
3.45 Pete Smith Specialities. A look at a family album (689092)  
4.00 Flowering Passions. Cottage gardens (r) (Teletext) (108)  
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. New series of the general knowledge quiz hosted by William G Stewart (s) (932)  
5.00 The Late Late Show. With Gay Byrne in Dublin (9214)  
6.00 The Cosby Show. American family comedy. Bill Cosby takes his children to a vaudeville show (r) (Teletext) (585)  
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. First of four programmes from Los Angeles. Ross spends Oscar night playing host to Jamie Lee Curtis, Ringo Starr, comedian Denis Leary and psychic Kenny King (s) (837)  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext) (429295)  
7.50 Voters. Three teachers at a Staffordshire school discuss issues relevant to themselves and their families (638585)  
8.00 Brookside. Liverpool soap. (Teletext) (s) (6363)  
8.30 Evening Shade. Burt Reynolds stars in this comedy series about a football coach (s) (5498)



Boarding school without rules: pupil at Summerhill (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Cutting Edge: Summerhill at 70.  
● CHOICE: A film by two American anthropologists offers a revealing fly-on-the-wall glimpse of A.S. Neill's famous experiment with a school in which the pupils are free of all discipline and moral direction. Neill's tradition is carried on by his daughter, a headmistress who outdoes her pupils in the use of four-letter words. One gathers there will be much bleeping when the programme is repeated on Friday afternoon. The sweating is presumably supposed to be cathartic, though the strength and the weakness of the film is that it shows without trying to explain. Without evidence to the contrary, the viewer may be forgiven for assuming that Summerhill is a version of *Lord of the Flies*, nasty, brutish and close to anarchy. Among the unexplained mysteries is why 90 per cent of the pupils seem to be American (5721)  
10.00 Northern Exposure. Video makers from the world of American comedy-drama, which, it turns out, is nothing like *Twin Peaks*. With Rob Morrow as the city doctor Joel Fleischman, marooned with his moose. In today's episode he inherits 100 acres of land and a team of champion huskies (s) (5108)  
11.00 Timecode II: Music Transfer. Video makers talk about the clash between modern and traditional music worldwide, from Costa Rican calypso to Belgian folk rock (139653)  
12.05 Midnight Special. Vincent Hanna presents a roundup of the election campaign (567696)  
2.05 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. As 6.30pm (r) (s) (4549764). Ends at 2.30

## SATellite

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.  
8.00am The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 8.30am Heri's (5092095) 9.00am Caribbees (537081) 9.30am The New Leave it to Beaver (16625) 10.00am The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 10.30am The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 11.00am The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 11.30am The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 12.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 12.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 1.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 1.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 1.50pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 2.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 2.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 2.50pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 3.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 3.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 3.50pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 4.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 4.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 4.50pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 5.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 5.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 5.50pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 6.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 6.30pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 6.50pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 7.00pm The 101 Cat Show (5092095) 7.30pm The 101 Cat 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